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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

DOD suspends defensive drill with S. Korea

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. followed through on its promise to North Korea, announcing Tuesday that it was canceling war games with South Korea that had been slated for August and was expecting concrete steps toward denuclearization in return.

The announcement came a week after President Donald Trump emerged from his landmark summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and announced that "we are ending the war games."

He surprised allies, lawmakers and military officials by criticizing them as "provocative" and "very expensive."

The annual drills — a corner-

stone of the long-standing U.S.-South Korean alliance — have been a frequent source of tension with the North, which considers them rehearsals for an invasion and has long called for them to be canceled.

In providing the first details about the extent of the suspension, the allies said that for now it was limited to a two-week computerized simulation known as

Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which had been scheduled for August.

"Consistent with President Donald J. Trump's commitment to North Korea and in concert with South Korea, the United States military has suspended all planning for Ulchi Freedom Guardian, this August's defensive war game," the Pentagon said.

SEE DRILL ON PAGE 3

The annual drills have been a frequent source of tension with the North, which considers them rehearsals for an invasion.



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Separation anxiety

Children listen to speakers during an immigration family separation protest in front of the Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. District Court building in Phoenix on Monday. President Donald Trump defended his administration's border-protection policies Monday in the face of rising national outrage over the forced separation of migrant children from their parents. See stories, Page 9

Oil tanker's owner sues to prevent payment to USS McCain families

BY CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A company that owns the commercial oil tanker involved in a deadly collision with a Navy destroyer last year has filed a lawsuit in federal court asking not to be held liable for damages.

Ten sailors aboard the Yokosuka-based USS John S. McCain were killed in the Aug. 21 collision near Singapore.

If a judge accepts the claim, Energetic Tank Inc. would not have to pay the families of the sailors who died in the crash should they attempt to sue for compensation.

In its lawsuit, which is being addressed in New York federal court, Energetic Tank says the collision was not caused by "any fault, neglect or want of care" of its company or its tanker, Alnic.

It also cites a passage in the Navy's post-collision report that describes "confusion" and steering issues on the McCain in the minutes before the crash.

SEE MCCAIN ON PAGE 4

■ **USS Fitzgerald officers headed to courts-martial Page 4**

MILITARY

Antarctic vets warned of radiation risk

BY SETH ROBSON

Stars and Stripes

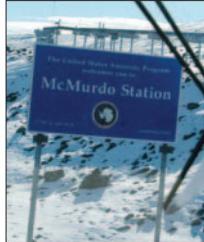
The New Zealand government is warning personnel who worked in Antarctica in the 1960s and '70s about radiation from a leaky U.S. Navy nuclear reactor.

Alerts were posted online by the New Zealand Defence Force, Antarctica New Zealand and other government entities in January and reported by local media last month.

They advise people to contact the New Zealand Office of Radiation Safety or their doctor if they think they may have been exposed to radiation from the reactor used to power McMurdo Station, Antarctica, from 1962 to 1979.

The U.S. Department of Defense has assessed the risk of radiation exposure for those who worked near the power plant as low.

However, the Department of Veterans Affairs ruled in November that retired Navy veteran James Landy's "esophageal, stomach, liver and brain and spine cancers [were] incurred in active duty service."



PHOTOS BY SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

The New Zealand government is warning about possible adverse health effects from a U.S. Navy nuclear reactor in Antarctica in the 1960s and '70s.

about the radiation risk, Pam Landy said.

"The government knew that thing was there. If they had given people a heads-up he could have been diagnosed early and might have a shot at being alive," she

Landy worked at McMurdo as a C-130 flight engineer from 1970 to 1974 and from 1977 to 1981 before dying at age 63 in 2012, said his widow, Pam Landy.

"He had pain in his kidneys and went to the doctor and they

sent him to an oncologist who said he had cancer from radiation exposure," she said in a phone interview Monday from her home in Pensacola, Fla.

Veterans who served in Antarctica should have been warned

said. "I got a payout from the VA, but it's a pittance compared to a life."

The McMurdo reactor had many malfunctions, but personnel might also have been exposed during its decommissioning when soil and rock from the site was trucked through the base to be shipped off the continent, she said.

Peter Breen, 64, was a New Zealand Army mechanic about 2 miles from McMurdo at Scott Base from 1981 to 1982. Rock and soil from the reactor site was taken to a wharf in open trucks, and Breen fears he could have been exposed to contaminated dust blown by the wind or on ice harvested from nearby cliffs.

He's campaigning for New Zealand Antarctic veterans to be recognized with a medal and offered health checks.

"It is not compensation that guys are after," he said in a phone interview from his home in Tauranga, New Zealand. "They want a health-check program."

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Man will plead guilty to impersonating general for helicopter ride

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — A man accused of trying to impress a woman by landing a chartered helicopter at a North Carolina technology company plans to plead guilty to impersonating a three-star Army general and will concede that he was same at the time, according to a new court filing.

The case against Christian Desgroux unfolded after authorities say he unexpectedly had a charter helicopter pilot land on a

soccer field last November at the corporate campus of SAS Institute in Cary.

Wearing a military battle uniform, Desgroux told a security officer who confronted him that he was there to pick up a female employee to take her to Fort Bragg for a classified briefing authorized by President Donald Trump, according to federal agents.

After he was charged with a federal count of pretending to be a military officer, his attorney requested that the 58-year-old un-

dergo a psychological evaluation. A Homeland Security agent previously testified that investigators suspected Desgroux was mentally ill.

Desgroux was examined at a federal prison facility in California, and a psychiatric report was filed under seal with the court in May, according to court records.

It's not clear exactly what the report says, but his attorney wrote in a court filing last Thursday that his client won't object to the

conclusion that he was legally sane at the time.

The defense attorney, Andrew McCoppin, also wrote that his client plans to plead guilty to the charge against him. McCoppin didn't immediately respond to a message seeking comment Monday.

Prosecutors say the charge against Desgroux carries a maximum of three years in prison. A competency hearing and arraignment is scheduled for next week.

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PACIFIC



KYODO NEWS/AP

A stretch limousine with a golden emblem similar to one North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has used previously arrives at the Diaoyutai State Guest house in Beijing on Tuesday.

As Xi, Kim meet again, China hopes to see summit gains

BY CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
AND DAKE KANG
Associated Press

BEIJING — Chinese President Xi Jinping told North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Tuesday he hopes Pyongyang and Washington can fully implement the outcome of last week's nuclear summit at which Kim pledged to work toward denuclearization in exchange for U.S. security guarantees.

State broadcaster CCTV said Xi told Kim that through the "concerted efforts of the relevant countries," negotiations regarding issues on the Korean Peninsula are back on track and the overall situation is moving in the direction of peace and stability.

The summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in Singapore marked an "important step toward the political solution of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue," Xi was quoted as saying in the meeting at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing.

China hopes North Korea and the U.S. can "implement well the outcomes achieved at the summit," Xi said. China would "always play a constructive role" in that process, he said.

Along with a statement signed by Kim and Trump offering vague commitments to denuclearization and security, Trump also agreed to suspend military exercises with South Korea in what was seen as a major win for North Korea and its chief allies, China and Russia.

Kim's two-day visit to China, which began Tuesday, had not been announced in advance but was expected as part of the Communist neighbors' tradition to report to each other on major developments.

The visit is Kim's third to China since March, highlighting China's crucial role in efforts by the U.S. and others to get North Korea to abandon its nuclear program. The U.S. has long looked to China to use its influence with North Korea to bring it to negotiations, but the visit comes as ties

between Beijing and Washington are being tested by a major trade dispute.

CCTV showed Kim and his wife, Ri Sol Ju, being welcomed by Xi with full military honors. Xi and his wife, Peng Liyuan, later hosted Kim and Ri at a banquet, CCTV reported.

China's official Xinhua News Agency announced the North Korean leader's visit shortly after he apparently landed Tuesday morning, dispensing with the secrecy shrouding previous trips to China by Kim and his father and predecessor, Kim Jong Il.

On the young Kim's first visit to China as leader, he took an armored train as his father had. His first two trips were not announced until after he had safely returned to North Korea.

Xi "is exerting a lot of influence from behind the scenes," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

"I expect they will talk about the path going forward and where priorities should lie," Glaser said. Those priorities, from China's perspective, would be to ensure that Beijing is included in any peace treaty talks and in creating an environment on the Korean Peninsula that will make it unnecessary for U.S. troops to remain.

Kim is likely hoping to get China's support for relief from punishing U.N. sanctions.

At a regularly scheduled briefing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Tuesday that Beijing supported Russia's calls last week for unilateral sanctions on North Korea — ones that aren't imposed with the United Nations framework — to be canceled immediately.

"China always stands against the so-called unilateral sanctions outside the Security Council framework. This position is very clear and we believe sanctions themselves are not the end," Geng said.

While Beijing and Moscow have supported U.N. restrictions,

Drill: Analyst says readiness at issue if more US-S. Korean exercises canceled

FROM FRONT PAGE

"We are still coordinating additional actions," spokeswoman Dana White added in the statement. "No decisions on subsequent war games have been made."

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and national security adviser John Bolton are to hold a meeting on the issue at the Pentagon later this week, she said.

"There is no impact on Pacific exercises outside of the Korean Peninsula," she added, apparently referring to the Pacific Rim international maritime drills to be held this summer in Hawaii.

South Korea's Defense Ministry issued a similar statement, although it didn't use the term "war games."

"We are making sufficient preparations to ensure there won't be any problems regarding the ... combined defense posture," ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo told reporters.

She added that officials expect the North to take a measure that "corresponds" with the exercise's suspension.

The U.S. administration has insisted the suspension is conditional on the North holding "good faith" negotiations over demands that it take verifiable steps to abandon its nuclear weapons program.

Critics said the decision to stop the drills without first obtaining reciprocal measures was a major concession that could backfire. Supporters, however, argued that it was a low-risk gesture because the drills could be resumed at any time.

The decision to cancel the exercises is rare but not unprecedented. A springtime exercise known as Team Spirit was canceled in 1992 but resumed the next year.

Limited scope

Trump and Kim agreed during nearly five hours of talks in Singapore to work toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, but the North Korean leader made no specific commitments on eliminating or reducing his country's nuclear arsenal.

"Suspending U.S.-South

they bristle at Washington imposing sanctions on its own to pressure North Korea.

Trump's surprise announcement in Singapore of a U.S. suspension of military drills with its South Korean ally fulfills a goal long pursued by North Korea and its backers China and Russia. That move is seen as potentially weakening defenses and diplomacy among America's Asian allies while bolstering China and Russia.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said Kim's visit to China

Korea joint military exercises is a mistake." Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., said last week in a statement, adding "making unnecessary and unreciprocated concessions is not in our interests."

The U.S. and South Korea — which fought against the communist-backed North in the 1950-53 Korean War — train together throughout the year across all branches of the military.

Ulchi Freedom Guardian, which began in 1976, is one of two major exercises and largely comprises a computerized scenario mimicking a war with the North.

Last year, about 17,500 U.S. servicemembers including units from other countries participated in the drills. Planning starts months in advance and requires extensive logistical coordination.

Two overlapping exercises known as Foal Eagle, which last as long as two months and involves maneuvers with thousands of troops, warships and fighters jets, and another computer simulation called Key Resolve take place in the spring.

Commanders insist the drills are defensive in nature and vital for readiness. The use of the term "war games" in Tuesday's press release was a marked departure from the military's usual cautious wording.

Retired Adm. Harry Harris, who has been nominated to be the new U.S. ambassador to South Korea, told a Senate committee in Washington on Thursday that he welcomes the "pause" in joint exercises as a chance to test Kim's seriousness about eliminating his nuclear arsenal.

Lindsey Ford, a former Asia security specialist at the Defense Department, said the operational impact would likely be limited as long as UFG is the only exercise canceled.

"If this evolves into a broader cancellation of U.S.-[South Korean] training exercises, it could have a profound impact on the readiness of both U.S. and South Korean forces," she said.

Ford, now with the Asia Society Policy Institute in Washington, said Trump's harsh criticism of the military exercises also could play into the hands of North Korea and its

communist benefactor China. "North Korea now knows they're pushing on an open door in terms of eliminating military exercises they find objectionable," she said in an email. "We have to assume they'll now continue pushing for further concessions on this front. China is likely to do the same."

Experts say North Korea may make limited concessions in exchange for rewards including the relaxation of economic sanctions, but it's not likely to give up its arsenal after demonstrating strong advances last year with three intercontinental ballistic missile tests and its sixth and most powerful nuclear test.

The communist state has not conducted a missile test in nearly seven months and announced ahead of the summit that it was suspending tests of nuclear weapons and ICBMs. But it is believed to maintain fissile material to produce dozens of nuclear bombs and other facilities.

Armistice agreement

Pompeo, meanwhile, said Trump also had agreed to "alter" the 1953 armistice that ended the war after the sides failed to reach a peace treaty.

The statement suggested another promise from the first U.S.-North Korean summit that hadn't been announced at the time.

Kim "has made very clear his commitment to fully demilitarize his country," Pompeo said during a speech in Detroit.

"In return for that, the president has committed to making sure that we alter the armistice agreement, provide the security assurances that Chairman Kim needs," he added.

The two Koreas agreed during their own April 27 summit to work toward the largely symbolic move of declaring a formal end to the war after decades of bitter stalemate.

But then-South Korean President Syngman Rhee wanted to continue fighting and refused to sign the armistice.

That would presumably leave it to signatories of the U.S.-United Nations Command, North Korea and China to reach a permanent peace deal.

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highlights the "constructive role" Beijing could play in disarming North Korea.

Ministry spokesman Noh Kyuduk also downplayed concerns that improving relations between China and North Korea could result in loosened Chinese sanctions against North Korea.

Cheng Xiaohua, an associate professor at Renmin University's School of International Studies in Beijing, said it was significant that Chinese state broadcaster CCTV announced Kim's visit before his return home.

"This is an improvement. This shows that China is moving toward a healthier and more normal direction in relations with North Korea," Cheng said.

Yang Mu-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean Studies in Seoul, said Kim's visits show the recent chill in the two countries' ties over Kim's development of nuclear weapons and long-range missiles had lifted.

"I believe that indicates that the cold alliance between the North and China has been completely restored," Yang said.

MILITARY

USS Fitzgerald officers face courts-martial

By DIANNA CAHN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy will pursue courts-martial for two officers from the USS Fitzgerald in the wake of a collision one year ago off the coast of Japan that killed seven sailors.

The decision by Adm. Frank Caldwell comes despite a recommendation by a pretrial hearing officer that Lt. Natalie Combs instead be sent before a board of inquiry to determine whether she should be discharged from the Navy, according to Combs' lawyer.

Cmdr. Bryce Benson, the commanding officer of the ship at the time of the June 17, 2017, collision, and Combs, the tactical action officer inside the combat information center below deck, will each face general court-martial, the Navy said in a news release. Benson will not face an original charge of negligent homicide.

Charges against a third officer, Lt. Irian Woolley, the ship's surface warfare coordinator, were dismissed. Instead, Caldwell recommended Woolley be sent to a board of inquiry, where he will be required to "show cause" why he should be allowed to stay in the Navy.

Caldwell was appointed consolidated disposition authority in late 2017 after the Fitzgerald collision was followed by the crash of another Navy destroyer, the USS John McCain. That collि-



The damaged USS Fitzgerald sits on the transport vessel at Ingalls Shipbuilding, a naval shipyard run by Virginia-based Huntington Ingalls Industries, in Pascagoula, Miss., on Jan. 19.

ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

sion killed 10 sailors in August. Part of Caldwell's authority is to decide whether to convene a court-martial, and he has ultimate discretion on who should face internal disciplinary action and who should face justice in a military courtroom.

Combs and Woolley faced a joint Article 32 pretrial hearing last month. Combs' lawyer, David Sheldon, told Stars and Stripes that the hearing officer, Cmdr. Anthony Johnson, had recommended that both cases go before

a board of inquiry to determine separation from the Navy. That board makes findings only for purposes of separation, not guilt or innocence.

The Navy said it will not release Johnson's recommendations until all proceedings involving the collision are over.

After handing the helm over to the officer of the deck, Benson was in his quarters when the Fitzgerald and a commercial container ship collided in the busy coastal waters off southern

Japan, and he suffered multiple injuries. Caldwell referred the counts of negligent dereliction of duty resulting in death, negligent dereliction of duty and one specification of negligent hazarding of a vessel to court-martial after Benson waived his right last month to an Article 32 hearing.

Combs will face charges of negligent dereliction of duty resulting in death and negligent hazarding of a vessel, the Navy said.

Combs and Woolley pleaded not guilty during their preliminary

hearing on May 9 that revealed severe problems with the ship's systems, along with an undermanned and overworked crew.

Prosecutors portrayed the defendants as failing in their jobs — not using the tools at their disposal properly, not trying to get faulty equipment fixed and therefore failing to see close calls in busy waters over the course of the night — the defense argued that the ship's radars and electronic equipment never worked properly and the crew was exhausted from working 20-hour days with no time to train or do repairs. The problems were systemic, leaving the officers unaware of the other ship's approach, the defense argued.

The Navy singled out Combs for her failure to communicate adequately with the deck and failing in her job of supporting the bridge to ensure it received vital information about contact with other vessels.

An expert witness during the Article 32 testified that Combs had just 13 actions involving monitoring or tracking other ships on her console that night — none in the last hour and 13 minutes leading up to the collision when there were many ships in the vicinity. Her attorney argued the Fitzgerald had faulty equipment and the Combat Information Center was unaware of any such contacts.

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'Commie cadet' out of Army after discharge

By MARY ESCH
Associated Press

WATERTOWN, N.Y. — The images Spenser Rapone posted on Twitter from his West Point graduation were intentionally shocking. In one, the cadet opens his dress uniform to expose a T-shirt with a blood-red image of socialist icon Che Guevara. In another, he raises his fist and flips his cap to reveal the message, "Communism will win."

Less than a year after Rapone's images drew a firestorm of vitriol and even death threats, the second lieutenant who became known as the "commie cadet" is officially out of the U.S. Army with an other-than-honorable discharge.

Top brass at Fort Drum accepted Rapone's resignation Monday after an earlier reprimand for "conduct unbecoming of an officer." Rapone said an investigation found he went online to advocate for a socialist revolution and disparage high-ranking officers. Officially, the Army said in a statement only that it conducted a full investigation and "appropriate action was taken."

An unrepentant Rapone

summed up the fallout in yet another tweet Monday that showed him extending a middle finger at a sign at the entrance to Fort Drum, accompanied by the words, "One final salute."

"I consider myself a revolutionary socialist," Rapone, 26, told The Associated Press. "I would encourage all soldiers who have a conscience to lay down their arms and join me and so many others who are willing to stop serving the agents of imperialism and join us in a revolutionary movement."

Rapone said his journey to communism grew out of his experiences as an Army Ranger in Afghanistan when he was accepted into the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in May 2016.

Those views only hardened during his studies of history as one of the academy's "Long Gray Line."

He explained that he took the offending selfies at his May 2016 West Point graduation ceremony and kept them to himself until last September, when he tweeted them in solidarity with NFL quarterback Colin Kaepernick, who was taking heat for kneeling for the national anthem to raise awareness of racism.



Spenser Rapone raises his left fist while displaying a sign inside his hat that reads "Communism will win" after graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., in May 2016.

A black and white photograph of the Hamagawa Lodge building. A large sign on the building reads "HAMAGAWA LODGE". Below it, a banner says "CALL FOR RESERVATIONS! Friendly English speaking staff (098)-936-7139". Another banner says "Attention contractors, Long-term stay OK!". A small sign on the left says "Free & unlimited internet (Wi-Fi) access".

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McCain: Navy investigators found collisions 'avoidable'

FROM FRONT PAGE

The suit mentions the Navy's nonjudicial punishment of seven sailors and criminal proceedings against a McCain chief petty officer and his then-commander in connection with the collision.

Energetic Tank further asks in its lawsuit that, if found liable, the company be made to pay only up to the amount of money the Alnic and its cargo were worth at the time of the crash: about \$16.7 million.

Families of the fallen and injured sailors are filing responses to the lawsuit, asking the judge to deny Energetic Tank's requests.

The crash was the second major deadly collision of a Navy ship in

the Pacific last year. Two months earlier, the USS Fitzgerald and a civilian merchant ship collided near Yokosuka, Japan, killing seven sailors.

Navy investigations found that the collisions were "avoidable" and caused by failures in planning, training, procedures and operations.

Part of that, the Navy found, was caused by the intense operational pace the fleet has maintained in recent years.

In the wake of the collisions, the Navy instituted reforms to shore up training and alertness at sea.

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WAR/MILITARY

Nominee Miller sees no quick end to Afghan War

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's choice to lead American and NATO efforts in Afghanistan told lawmakers on Tuesday that a revamped war strategy has made progress but he doesn't see an end to the 17-year conflict any time soon.

Army Lt. Gen. Austin "Scott" Miller said American troops were needed in Afghanistan to ensure major terrorist organizations including al-Qaida and Islamic State remained unable to launch major attacks against the United States from that country, a position that top Pentagon officials have maintained for years. Miller, who oversees the United States' most secretive commando units as chief of Joint Special Operations Command, warned withdrawing from Afghanistan would likely mirror the pullout of U.S. troops from Iraq in 2011 — which helped lead to the rise of ISIS.

"I can't guarantee you any timeline or an end date," Miller told the Senate Armed Services Committee in a hearing to consider his nomination to become the ninth top American commander in Afghanistan.

Without American forces there, he added, he would "be concerned about ISIS' and al-Qaida's ability to emerge and project external operations. One, because I know they want to, and I know they are constantly looking for that opportunity."

Miller, 57, appeared headed for an easy confirmation to take command of forces in Afghanistan from Army Gen. John Nicholson, who has led U.S. and NATO troops there since March 2016. Miller is expected to be confirmed in the coming weeks and take command in August or September, officials said.

But despite a warm reception from senators who described Miller as "well-qualified" and "one of the most extraordinary

general officers in the United States," several lawmakers told the general that he should take the assignment with an eye toward implementing changes to America's longest war.

"There is obviously an expectation that you'll bring something in that is going to offer something new," said Sen. Jim Inhofe, R-Okl., the committee's acting chairman. "Come in and give some new insights. Continue to do the same thing that's been done for 17 years is not going to be acceptable. We expect some major changes."

Other senators cautioned the prospects for substantial change to the war in Afghanistan seemed slim.

"I'm afraid we're asking our military to perform an impossible task," said Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass. "Our military cannot and should not be in Afghanistan forever."

Since last summer, Nicholson has overseen the Trump administration's new strategy for Afghanistan, including pouring thousands of additional troops into the country, increasing its bombing campaign against the Taliban and pressuring Pakistan to assist in security efforts. Despite the revamped approach designed to drive Taliban leaders into peace negotiations, the U.S.-backed Afghan government only controls land with about 65 percent of the nation's population, according to the Pentagon. Taliban or other insurgent groups control about 12 percent, and the remaining 23 percent are contested.

Miller, who has spent some 20 years working in special operations since his graduation from West Point in 1989, gave few hints during the hearing about changes that he might make to the war effort in Afghanistan. He repeated several times that if he was confirmed, he would first need to make individual assessments of



JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Sen. Joni Ernst, R-Iowa, talks with Lt. Gen. Austin S. Miller, right, and Miller's children, Sarah and Austin, before a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing Tuesday on Capitol Hill.

the war effort before singling out areas that could be improved.

Several defense officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told Stars and Stripes that the Pentagon expects him to implement an aggressive but analytical style as the top commander in Afghanistan. Miller was at the helm of the Army's most elite and secretive unit, Delta Force, which the service does not officially recognize, when it greatly increased its aggressiveness in the war in Iraq, largely in volatile Anbar province, which includes the key cities of Ramadi and Fallujah.

Miller said the United States must continue to train and assist Afghan forces so they defend their country against insurgents and terrorists.

His career has included deployments to Iraq, Somalia and Bosnia. Miller also said he has spent about four cumulative years serving in Afghanistan.

In 2001, just months after the 9/11 terror-

ist attacks that sparked the war, Miller was among the first Americans in Afghanistan. He returned for deployments in 2009 and 2013, most recently leading special operations teams in the country.

He told lawmakers on Tuesday that he never imagined the war lasting nearly two decades, recalling conversations he had with fellow servicemembers in 2001 about completing the mission so their children would not have to do so.

His son, Army 2nd Lt. Austin Miller, a new platoon leader with the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C., joined him at the hearing. The general pointed out his son was now in the position to potentially deploy to Afghanistan.

"This young guy sitting behind me — I never anticipated that his [generation] would be in a position to deploy as I sat there in 2001," the elder Miller said.

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Coalition troops in Afghanistan get training on spicy new weapons

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Nearly three dozen troops have been trained on a new weapon that looks and feels like a standard-issue carbine but fires nonlethal rounds that explode on impact and release a cloud of irritating pepper powder, military officials said Tuesday.

U.S. Forces-Afghanistan wanted a nonlethal weapon that coalition servicemen could use to lower civilian casualties "and help deter rock-throwing at the towers, patrols and entry control points" at some of its bases, according to a contract solicitation published in February.

The Army has been looking at ways to outfit troops with nonlethal weapons that give soldiers greater standoff distance when confronted by aggressive non-combatants, such as rioters, while reducing the risk of permanent harm to civilians.

In Afghanistan, escalation-of-force guidance issued in August 2016 called for bases to have paintball guns at every static guard tower, contract documents said, but not all the bases had the right



COURTESY OF PEPPERBALL TECHNOLOGIES/Twitter

A police officer uses the Variable Kinetic System.

weapons or ammunition.

Under a \$650,000 contract in March, the military purchased nearly 270 units of the Variable Kinetic System, or VKS, made by Chicago-based PepperBall Technologies.

The semiautomatic "launcher," which has a rifled barrel and integrated Picatinny Rail for accessories such as the M68 Close Combat Optic, is modeled on the AR-15 carbine, like the M4 and M16. That means it should feel

familiar in almost any soldier's hands, making training easier, the solicitation said.

The Army selected the black model VKS with two 15-round magazines each. The weapon, which can fire 20 rounds per second, is also available with a standard paintball "hopper" that can hold up to 180 rounds, according to the company's website.

The new weapon will give base defenders the ability to protect soldiers and facilities "from enemy

combatants and civilian demonstrators and criminal elements while also reducing casualties amongst the civilian population by only using lethal force when necessary," according to a contracting document justifying the selection of the VKS.

"These weapons provide a variety of options in situations where traditional weapons are not the best solution, while reducing the risk of fatalities and permanent injury," U.S. Forces-Afghanistan said in a statement Tuesday.

Extended-range rounds can travel up to 50 yards for high-intensity and crowd-control situations, the company says.

The rounds burst on impact, "leaving a debilitating cloud that affects the eyes, nose and respiratory system," according to a company news release. Think: the gas chamber in basic training.

The 3-foot cloud of the proprietary irritant ensures a "direct hit" is not necessary to be effective, the company said on Twitter in April.

PepperBall weapons have been used by state and federal police, federal prisons, Customs and Border Patrol and the Coast Guard.

The Army evaluated the VKS

during its annual Army Experimental Warrior Experiment earlier this year. It's one of two candidates for the Army's Individual Nonlethal System, which is intended to replace a range of blunt-impact, nonlethal weapons like beanbag rounds or rubber bullets, according to an article published last year in the U.S. Army publication Military Police. Those other weapons have limited range and can be lethal if not used properly, the article said.

The Afghanistan contract includes 50,000 training rounds and more than 90,000 PepperBall rounds, as well as maintenance kits and related equipment. Also included is 10 days of "train the trainer" and armoror instruction, which was ongoing last week, according to a post on the PepperBall Twitter account. (<https://twitter.com/PepperBall/status/1006625647282835456>)

"PepperBall is currently in Afghanistan training U.S. Marines from one of the forward operating bases along with troops from Poland, Czech Republic and Georgia," the post said.

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MILITARY

Senate OKs bill blocking ZTE deal

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate on Monday approved a defense policy bill that includes a pay raise for the military and would block a White House plan to allow Chinese telecom giant ZTE Corp to buy component parts from the U.S.

The Chinese company is accused of violating trade laws by selling sensitive technologies to North Korea and Iran. The Trump administration announced a deal with ZTE earlier this month, but Senate leaders have sought to reverse it by tucking a provision into the must-pass defense package.

The Senate approved the bill, 85-10, sending it to the House, which approved the measure last month without the ZTE provision.

The \$717 billion measure would give troops a 2.6 percent pay hike — the largest in nine years — and address shortfalls in military readiness such as pilot training, maintenance of equipment and procurement of new weapons systems.

The Commerce Department barred ZTE in April from importing American components for seven years after concluding that the company deceived U.S. regulators after settling charges last year of sanctions violations. Instead of disciplining all employees involved, ZTE had paid some of them full bonuses and then lied about it, Commerce said.

The decision amounted to a death sentence for ZTE, which relies on U.S. parts. The company quickly announced that it was halting operations. The ban also hurt American companies that supply ZTE. But earlier this month, the U.S. and China reached a deal that allows ZTE to stay in business in exchange for paying an additional \$1 billion in fines and agreeing to let U.S. regulators monitor its operations.

The fine comes on top of \$892 million ZTE has already paid for breaking U.S. sanctions by selling equipment to North Korea and Iran.

BY CLAUDIA GRISALES
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — A massive defense policy bill authorizing a 2.6 percent pay raise for service-members — the largest in nearly a decade — along with higher troop levels could win final congressional passage this summer, experts said Tuesday.

The House and Senate have each passed its version of the measure, known as the National Defense Authorization Act, and it now heads to a conference committee where lawmakers will hash out differences in the plan and come up with a final version. Both versions authorize the pay raises, troop level increases, purchases of aircraft, ships, submarines and weapons and a series of new policy initiatives.

With a spending deal lifting budget caps already in place, midterm elections this fall and a more experienced administration, lawmakers are poised to pass the 2019 NDAA earlier and in smoother fashion this year.

"There's an excellent chance they could get it done this summer," said Mark Cancian, a senior adviser with the Washington think tank Center for Strategic and International Studies. "There's not lots of major issues and they are very cognizant that there are elections and they want to get it done before elections. ... There will be a lot of incentive this summer."

On Monday evening, the Senate passed its version of the NDAA, which directs policy and spending plans for the Defense Department, in a vote of 85 to 10. Last month, the House passed its version in a vote of 351 to 66.

The legislation, with its large margins of passage in both chambers, is "veto proof," meaning even an objection from President Donald Trump is unlikely to derail the measure, said Andrew Sherbo, a University of Denver finance professor who has tracked government and defense budget issues.

"These are majorities," with 89 percent in the Senate and 84 percent in the House voting in support of the measure, Sherbo said. "Rare bipartisan support ensures passage."

However, the NDAA still needs companion legislation that actually appropriates the funding and there are threats from the White House that it could face roadblock and a government shutdown if Trump doesn't get money for a southern border wall.

Both chambers approve GI pay raises

More military spending

With both chambers of Congress agreeing on several key measures of the defense bill, it makes efforts to boost pay, programs and benefits close to a sure thing to win passage out of congressional conference committee, experts said.

Earlier this year, a deal to lift budget caps for two years allowed Congress to increase spending for defense to \$716 billion for 2018. Estimates are the 2019 NDAA is just under \$710 billion.

"This year you are getting pretty clear what you call regular order," Cancian said of the process. "Last year you had a new administration and a lot of things were delayed ... so this is pretty close to regular — the way Congress would like to get business done. The budget agreement has been helpful."

In recent months, House and Senate committees held dozens of hearings to discuss the 2019 spending and policy priorities for each of the service branches as well as a wide-ranging list of challenges facing the military.

The effort appears to build on momentum to grow the size and might of the military in response to China and Russia's growing capabilities as laid out in Trump's \$686.1 billion defense budget proposed earlier this year. Trump's proposal was poised to get a receptive response on Capitol Hill with a deal already in place to bust budget caps and a Congress invested in military improvements during an election year. The request for fiscal year 2019, which begins Oct. 1, included an increase of more than 15,000 active-duty troops.

The House and Senate versions of NDAA have relatively minor differences that should be settled easily in conference, Cancian said.

Both versions also expand efforts to combat military-related child abuse and sexual misconduct among its ranks.

The Senate version seems to take a more aggressive stance than the House NDAA on issues such as reforming the "up or out" military promotion system, addressing opioid addiction among military servicemembers and veterans, and tackling the sexual misconduct, abuse and domestic violence concerns.

For example, the Senate proposal would make domestic violence a crime under the Uniformed Crime Military Justice, or UCMJ, a complaint raised in several Senate committee hearings this past year.

"My guess is we will do pretty well," Cancian said.

Roadblocks remain

With midterm elections approaching that could shift party control in Congress, the House and Senate versions of the NDAA steered away from many issues that otherwise might have held up the legislation.

Among them, the legislation avoids Base Realignment and Closure, or BRAC, to close inefficient military facilities and doesn't impose a rash of new requirements related to the Pentagon's first ongoing audit. It also directs a large share of funding to the war fund, also known as the Overseas Contingency Operations.

"In a lot of ways what stands out in both bills is how they don't make tough choices," said Mandy Smithberger, a director at the Center for Defense Information for the Project On Government Oversight, a nonpartisan government watchdog group. "They con-

tinued to dodge BRAC, only ask for reporting on making progress on a financial audit, and continue to abuse OCO for various pet projects."

The Senate bill notably only funds one Littoral Combat Ship, while the House funds an additional two against Navy protests, Smithberger adds.

Meanwhile, the House NDAA pushes a number of reforms and spending cuts of the so-called "Fourth Estate" — dozens of DOD agencies that entail civilian oversight.

"Fortunately the Senate rejected a number of those ideas, which we think would increase costs to taxpayers and decrease combat effectiveness," Smithberger said.

Among the biggest stumbling blocks, experts said, is a measure that would reverse a White House effort to come to the aid of giant Chinese telecommunications firm ZTE.

The Senate version "has a ban on U.S. firms selling to Chinese firm ZTE and Trump doesn't want the sales ban," Sherbo said. The House version "has sales ban on ZTE" and it's not even mentioned.

The goal is to resolve the differences and reach an agreement by the end of July, in time for Congress to take its summer recess, Sherbo said.

"It's notable that the White House didn't put out a meaningful statement of administration policy ahead of the Senate vote ... It's extremely unusual for a White House not to comment or try to shape the contents of a must-pass defense policy bill," Smithberger said. "But since the bill passed with a veto-proof majority in the Senate, the White House may not have the leverage necessary to defeat it."

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WAR ON TERRORISM

Yemeni forces claim capture of Hodeidah airport

From wire reports

Yemeni government forces backed by Saudi-led coalition warplanes said they seized control of Hodeidah airport from Houthi rebels on Tuesday, a major objective in their fight to recapture the western city that is the country's aid and food lifeline.

The airport, which includes civilian and military zones, was now being combed for any remaining pockets of rebels after days of intense fighting, said Abdulrehman al-Mahrami, who leads the Yemeni forces on the west coast front. There was no immediate confirmation from the Houthis.

The government and its Gulf partners, including the United Arab Emirates, began their assault on the port city of 400,000 people last week. The UAE said the operation aims to force the Iran-aligned Houthis into talks, but the United Nations has warned two-thirds of the population could die if Hodeidah is besieged, and it is pushing for a political resolution to spare the city.

The battle for Hodeidah, entry point for 70 percent of Yemen's imports and humanitarian assistance, has become a pivotal point in the country's 3-year-old civil war. A loss or drawn-out clashes for the Saudi-led coalition would deal another blow to Riyadh's efforts to win the proxy war with regional rival Iran. The capture of the airport, however, could give the Saudi-backed coalition the upper hand as it advances on the real prize — the port.

"Strategically, it's a big win for the coalition," said Peter Salisbury, a senior fellow at Chatham House's Middle East & North Africa Program. "They now have a ready-made operations base to work from as they begin the cam-

paign for the port and the city. It took them longer than anticipated, but that also translated to a high cost for the Houthis. The question for me is if the Houthis have the manpower and resources to mount the same kind of defense of the port."

Saudi Arabia and its allies intervened in Yemen's war in March 2015 after the Houthis took control of the capital Sanaa and other cities, forcing President Abd Rabbo Mansur Hadi into exile in Riyadh. While the alliance has been able to recover areas in southern Yemen, the Houthis still control Sanaa and territories in the north, and frequently fire ballistic missiles into Saudi Arabia, which has accused Iran of supplying such weapons.

During the war, the Saudi-led coalition has disrupted food and other supplies coming into Yemen by imposing a naval blockade on ports including Hodeidah, which they have said are used to smuggle in weapons. The Houthis extract payments on goods that are trucked through the areas they control, forcing up food costs.

The fighting has created a humanitarian catastrophe, with thousands of civilians killed and displacement, hunger and sickness rampant. Three-quarters of the country's 28 million people need aid to stave off hunger and disease, and half of those require it urgently to survive, according to the U.N. About 5,200 families had fled the fighting in Hodeidah, it said Monday.

Despite their military supremacy, Saudi-backed forces have advanced slowly as the rebels have dug in for a guerrilla battle, building concrete bunkers and carrying out nighttime raids on the coalition supply lines, said a government commander who



PHOTOS FROM ARAB 24/AP

This still image taken from video provided by Arab 24 shows Saudi-led forces gathering to retake the international airport of Yemen's rebel-held port city of Hodeida from the Shiite Houthi rebels Saturday.

asked not to be identified.

Also on Tuesday, the Saudi-led coalition bombed a bus carrying civilians, killing six people on the outskirts of Hodeida, a senior Houthi-linked health official said.

Yahia Sharaf Eddin said four of the dead were women and that the strike took place in the district of al-Gharasi.

Witnesses, however, said that the coalition had targeted Houthi fighters, but that shrapnel also hit the bus that was carrying civilians.

Earlier in the day, witnesses said another airstrike targeted a tractor driver and his assistant in eastern Hodeida. The driver was digging trenches for Houthi fighters, witnesses said. Both were killed.

Meanwhile, United Nations special envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths left the capital Sanaa after three days of talks with rebel leaders. He briefed the U.N. Security Council on Monday by video from Sanaa on his proposals to restart political negotiations to end the conflict.

Griffiths arrived in Yemen to try to avoid an all-out assault on



Saudi-led forces fight to retake the international airport of Yemen's rebel-held port city of Hodeida from the Shiite Houthi rebels.

Hodeida.

The U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs said heavy fighting poses a danger to the warehouses used for humanitarian aid in the port city.

In its daily report, UNOCHA heavy fighting has engulfed several districts outside of Hodeida,

prompting relief agencies to relocate stocks away from the fighting, from which some warehouses are becoming inaccessible.

The U.N. said Monday that more than 5,200 families have fled for their lives away from the fighting since June 1.

Iraq condemns airstrikes near Syria border

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq condemned on Tuesday the targeting of pro-Syria paramilitary troops in eastern Syria after an airstrike killed mostly Iraqi Shiite forces deployed to fight Islamic State.

In a statement, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry expressed "rejection and condemnation of airstrikes targeting troops deployed in areas where they are fighting Daesh, whether in Iraq or Syria." "Daesh" is the Arabic acronym for the Islamic State group.

Targeting these troops "is a support to Daesh to regroup and to expand," the statement added. It called for continuing coordination between the U.S.-led coalition and troops on the ground to support them in the fight.

Iraqi Shiite forces and Syria on Monday accused the U.S.-led coalition of conducting the Sunday airstrikes along the Iraq-Syria border, killing at least 22 fighters and wounding 12 others. Iraqi officials in Baghdad put the death toll at 25 Shiite fighters, with 25 others wounded and three missing.

U.S. military spokesman Col. Sean Ryan denied the strikes were carried out by U.S. or coalition forces, but said they were investigating.

Also Tuesday, Iraq's Hezbollah Brigades denounced what it called a "heinous crime" that "will not go unanswered," blaming the attack on the "idiots Trump and Netanyahu." It warned it was ready to confront Israel and America without hesitation.

No details were available on the strikes, but Syrian state TV said they occurred around midnight in the village of al-Hari, to the southeast of the border town of Boukamal along Iraqi border.

Last week, ISIS launched a major offensive against Boukamal, reaching the outskirts of the town before being pushed back by government forces. The loss of the town would deal a major blow to Iranian-backed forces on both sides of the border, who have established a corridor through eastern Syria to link Iran to the Mediterranean Sea.

Syrian and Iraqi forces have driven ISIS from virtually all the territory it once held in both countries, but the militants still control some remote areas along the border.

Afghan officials in Pakistan for talks

Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — An Afghan official said top security officials are in Pakistan for talks on reviving the peace process with the Taliban.

Feroz Bashari, a government spokesman, says National Security Adviser Mohammad Hanif Atmar, intelligence chief Masoom Stanikzai and Interior Minister Wais Ahmad Barmak traveled to Pakistan on Tuesday for talks with senior officials.

Pakistan is believed to have influence over the Taliban, whose senior leadership is based in the country.

The Taliban observed a cease-fire over the three-day Eid al-Fitr holiday last weekend but rejected the government's request for an extension.

NATION

Audio of children stokes anger over separations

BY NOMAAN MERCHANTE
AND ANITA SNOW
Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas — An audio recording that appears to capture the heartbreaking voices of young, Spanish-speaking children crying out for their parents at a U.S. immigration facility took center stage in the growing uproar over the Trump administration's policy of separating immigrant children from their parents.

"Papa! Papa!" one child is heard weeping in the audio file that was first reported Monday by the nonprofit ProPublica and later provided to The Associated Press.

Human rights attorney Jennifer Harbury said she received the tape from a whistleblower and told ProPublica it was recorded in the last week. She did not provide details about where exactly it was recorded.

Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen said she had not heard the audio but said children taken into custody by the government are being treated humanely. She said the government has high standards for detention centers, and the children are well cared for. She said that Congress needs to plug loopholes in the law so families can stay together.

The audio surfaced as politicians and advocates flocked to the U.S.-Mexico border to visit U.S. immigration detention centers and turn up the pressure on the Trump administration. The president was to visit Capitol Hill on Tuesday afternoon to discuss the crisis with House Republicans.

The backlash over the policy widened when the Mormon church said it is "deeply troubled" by the separation of families at the border and urged national leaders to find compassionate solutions.

Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker, a Republican, reversed a decision to send a National Guard helicopter from a state to the Mexican border to assist in a deployment, citing the administration's "cruel and inhumane" policy. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, a Republican, said Tuesday he has ordered four Maryland National Guard members and a helicopter to immediately return from their station in Mexico until the separation policy is rescinded.

At the border, an estimated 80 people pleaded guilty Monday to immigration charges, including some who asked the judge questions such as, "What's going to happen to my daughter?" and "What will happen to my son?"

Attorneys at the hearings said the immigrants had brought two dozen boys and girls with them to the U.S., and the judge replied that he did not know what would happen to their children.

Several groups of lawmakers toured a nearby facility in Brownsville, Texas, that houses hundreds of immigrant children.

Democratic Rep. Ben Ray Lujan, of New Mexico, said the location was a former hospital converted into living quarters for children, with rooms divided



MATTHEW HINTON, THE (NEW ORLEANS) ADVOCATE/AP

Protesters against the separation of immigrant children from their parents on the U.S.-Mexico border clash Monday with law enforcement outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans after Attorney General Jeff Sessions spoke at the National Sheriffs' Association opening session.

Trump, top Republicans to huddle as outrage builds over US border policy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Republicans on Capitol Hill frantically searched on Tuesday for ways to end the administration's policy of separating families after illegal border crossings ahead of a visit from President Donald Trump to discuss broader immigration legislation.

Top conservatives, including key Trump allies, announced they were introducing bills to stop the practice amid a public outcry over the administration's "zero tolerance" approach to illegal crossings.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz, of Texas, introduced legislation that the White House said it was reviewing, and Rep. Mark Meadows, R-N.C., a leader of the conservative Freedom Caucus, also introduced a measure.

Both bills were offered as alternatives in case broader GOP immigration legislation heading for a vote this week fails, as is likely.

"This becomes a backup proposal," Meadows told reporters at the White House.

Trump's meeting late Tuesday with House Republicans comes as lawmakers in both parties are up in arms after days of news reports showing images of children being held at border facilities in cages and an audio recording of a young child pleading for his "Papa."

The issue boiled over Tuesday at a House hearing on an unrelated subject when protesters with babies briefly shut down proceedings.

Maryland Rep. Elijah Cummings, the top Democrat on the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, teared



MANUEL BALCE CENETA/AP

Lucy Martin and her daughter, Branwen Espinal, along with other mothers and their babies, are removed after babies started crying during a hearing in Washington on Tuesday.

up as he pleaded with Republicans on the panel to end what he called "internment camps."

"We need you, those children need you — and I am talking directly to my Republican colleagues — we need you to stand up to President Donald Trump," he said.

Under the current policy, all unlawful crossings are referred for prosecution — a process that moves adults to the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service and sends many children to facilities run by the Department of Health and Human Services. Under the Obama administration, such families were usually referred for civil deportation proceedings, not requiring separation.

Homeland security officials say they are still working out the process of reuniting parents with their children after they're separated at the border.

Officials said Tuesday that 2,342 minors were separated

from their parents who were caught trying to come to the U.S. illegally from May 6 to June 9.

The House is already embroiled in an election-year struggle over immigration legislation that threatens to hurt Republicans in November.

Democrats have seized on the family separation issue. And now, Republicans are increasingly joining them in their call to stop separating families.

"While cases are pending, families should stay together," tweeted Cruz, who is in an unexpectedly tough re-election battle. "Children belong with their families." He introduced his own bill to speed up court proceedings to no more than 14 days.

The Trump administration insists the family separations are required under the law. But the White House said Tuesday it was reviewing the emergency legislation being introduced by Cruz to keep migrant families together.

by age group. There was even a small room for infants, complete with two high chairs, where two baby boys wore matching rugby-style shirts with orange and white stripes.

Another group of lawmakers on Sunday visited an old warehouse in McAllen, Texas, where hundreds of children are being held in cages created by metal fencing. One cage held 20 youngsters.

More than 1,100 people were inside the large, dark facility, which is divided into separate wings for unaccompanied children, adults on their own, and mothers and fathers with children.

In Texas' Rio Grande Valley, the busiest corridor for people trying to enter the U.S., Border Patrol officials say they must crack down on migrants and separate adults from children as a deterrent to others trying to get into the U.S. illegally. "When

Sen. Ted Cruz
R-Texas you exempt a group of people from

the law ... that creates a draw," said Manuel Padilla, the Border Patrol's chief agent there.

House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, speaking to reporters during a tour of San Diego immigration detention facilities with Rep. Juan Vargas and other House Democrats, said family separation is a "heartbreaking, barbarian issue that could be changed in a moment by the president of the United States rescinding his action."

"It so challenges the conscience of our country that it must be changed and must be changed immediately," she said during a news conference at a San Diego terminal that is connected to the airport in Tijuana, Mexico, by a bridge.

Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, announced late Monday that he was introducing emergency legislation intended to keep immigrant families together.

"All Americans are rightly horrified by the images we are seeing on the news, children in tears pulled away from their mothers and fathers," Cruz said. "This must stop."

President Donald Trump emphatically defended his administration's policy Monday, again flatly blaming Democrats.

"The United States will not be a migrant camp, and it will not be a refugee holding facility," he declared. "Not on my watch."

NATION

Ethics office says virtual currencies require disclosure

By ERIC YODER
The Washington Post

Virtual money is real enough that federal employees must report it on their financial disclosure statements and is covered by conflict of interest laws, the government's central ethics agency said Monday.

The Office of Government Ethics said guidance was needed because "virtual currencies are experiencing a surge in use and access, and as a result, employees who hold virtual currencies are increasingly seeking guidance from their ethics officials concerning their financial disclosure reporting obligations."

While virtual currency does not have the status of legal tender, the Internal Revenue Service considers it "property" for federal tax purposes and other federal agencies recognize it as an investment vehicle, the guidance said, making it subject to financial disclosure and conflict of interest laws applying to assets such as stocks and bonds.

Those principles "apply equally to other digital assets, such as 'coins' or 'tokens' received in connection with initial coin offerings or issued or distributed using

distributed ledger or blockchain technology," it said.

Many federal employees, mainly with responsibilities over the spending of money, must file annual financial disclosure forms, which their employing agencies review for potential conflicts of interest but keep confidential. A smaller number, mainly at more senior levels, must file more detailed forms, which are publicly available.

While the rules are complex, in general filers must report their holdings in a virtual currency "if the value of the virtual currency holding exceeded \$1,000 at the end of the reporting period or if the income produced by the virtual currency holding exceeded \$200 during the reporting period. Filers are required to identify the name of the virtual currency and, if held through an exchange or platform, the exchange or platform on which it is held," the guidance said.

Those who file publicly available disclosures further must report certain purchases and sales of stocks and other forms of securities. However, the guidance said those requirements will vary depending on whether a particular holding is considered a "security."

Gun by her side, GOP Senate candidate speaks of threats

Associated Press

MADISON, Wis. — With a holstered handgun next to her on a kitchen table, Republican U.S. Senate Leah Vukmir promises in her first television ad of the campaign, released Monday, to stand with President Donald Trump just as she did against death threats in Wisconsin.

Vukmir, a state senator, faces management consultant and political newcomer Kevin Nicholson in the Republican primary on Aug. 14. Nicholson is running as the outsider in the race and brands Vukmir as a career politician. She has tried to play up her conservative voting record and support for Trump even though she did not initially endorse him.

The winner will take on Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin in November in a race that has attracted more spending by outside groups than any other in the country, based on a tally by the Center for Responsive Politics.

Vukmir and other Republican legislators were the target of massive protests in 2011 for backing GOP Gov. Scott Walker's signature law that effectively ended collective bargaining for most public workers, including teachers, and forced them to pay more for their benefits.

Vukmir frequently talks on



This frame grab from a video shows Leah Vukmir, a Wisconsin Republican U.S. Senate candidate, sitting at a kitchen table with a handgun next to her as she talks about death threats she says she received.

the campaign trail about death threats she said she received during that time. Her ad includes a recreation of a voicemail threat Vukmir claims to have received in which the caller says, "I know where you live and I'm going to come for you. You're going to die and I'm going to be the one who does it."

Her campaign spokesman, Mattias Gugel, didn't immediately reply to questions Monday about whether she reported the threat to law enforcement. Her campaign said the ad is running statewide but didn't say how large the buy was.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz, left, and FBI Director Christopher Wray are sworn in to testify before the Senate Judiciary Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington on Monday.

Justice Department IG: FBI probes are ongoing

By MATT ZAPOTOSKY,
 KAROUN DEMIRJIAN
 AND DEVLIN BARRETT
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department inspector general said Monday that his office is still probing possible misconduct in the FBI's safeguarding of its own secrets — from how former Director James Comey handled his personal memos to whether others under him may have given sensitive details to reporters.

Inspector General Michael Horowitz revealed the continued investigative work to lawmakers on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which on Monday conducted the first hearing to examine his 500-page report assessing how the FBI handled the high-profile investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while she was secretary of state.

The report blasted senior FBI officials for having shown a "willingness to take official action" to hurt Donald Trump's chances of becoming president, though it determined political bias did not ultimately affect the decision not to charge Clinton with a crime.

Monday's hearing offered lawmakers on each side of the aisle an opportunity to press their long-held talking points about the Clinton email case and the similarly charged investigation into whether Trump's campaign coordinated with Russia to influence the 2016 election.

Through the inspector general, lawmakers each seemed to score political points. Horowitz conceded bias might have affected one

FBI agent's decision to prioritize the Russia case over the Clinton email probe and called out as particularly troubling a text exchange in which the agent told an FBI lawyer "we'll stop" Trump from becoming president.

"We found the implication that senior FBI employees would be willing to take official action to impact a presidential candidate's electoral prospects to be deeply troubling and antithetical to the core values of the FBI and the Justice Department," Horowitz said.

But Horowitz rebutted Trump's claim that the report exonerated him with respect to possible coordination with Russia, saying flatly, "We did not look into collusion questions."

One of Horowitz's most notable assertions was that his office, based on a referral from the FBI, was reviewing the handling of Comey's memos detailing what the former FBI director viewed as troubling interactions with Trump. Horowitz said he planned to issue a report on the matter, as well as another one on leaks from the FBI.

In his book released earlier this year, Comey said he shared one memo — about a February conversation with Trump in which he alleged the president asked him to let go an investigation into former national security adviser Michael Flynn — with a friend, Columbia University law professor Daniel Richman.

Richman then relayed the memo's contents to The New York Times, which Comey said has said was meant to spur the appointment of

another special counsel.

Another person familiar with the case, however, said Comey eventually shared other memos with his lawyers, including Richman, though he held back some information that he considered classified. The person spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss a sensitive topic.

Shortly after Comey was fired, an FBI review determined some of the information in two of his memos was classified, said a person familiar with the matter, prompting the FBI to retrieve those documents from two people with whom Comey had shared them. The information was marked confidential, the lowest category of classified information, another person said. The Justice Department's inspector general had earlier assured lawmakers privately that he will review the handling of the memos, according to people familiar with the matter.

Horowitz appeared at the hearing Monday with FBI Director Christopher Wray, who sought to assure lawmakers he was working to impose reforms at the bureau and avoid the mistakes of his predecessor.

Wray said he already had ordered the bureau's No. 3 official to assess how sensitive investigations are handled, ordered new "in-depth" training for senior managers and created a unit to specifically investigate leaks.

The inspector general's report was particularly damaging for Comey, calling his actions in the last months of the Clinton email case "extraordinary" and "insubordinate."

NATION

Midwest flooding brings death, washed-out roads

Associated Press

ROCKFORD, Ill. — Bystanders rescued a man, 70, from his submerged car after flash flooding swamped a northern Illinois city.

The Monday evening storm dumped 3 to 5 inches of rain on Rockford in under four hours. Resulting floods submerged roads under feet of water. Authorities haven't reported any injuries.

The Rockford Register Star reported that people who saw a car being swept into a guardrail broke out its windows to rescue the driver.

Mark Pickett said he used straps from his truck to help the man to safety.

The Rockford Fire Department rescued people from about 15 vehicles.

Parts of a MercyHealth Hospital campus in Rockford were flooded, but officials said no patient-occupied areas were affected.

Widespread flooding in the Upper Midwest was blamed for at least one death in Wisconsin, while disaster declarations were issued Monday in northern Michigan after flash flooding washed out roads, damaged businesses and caused dozens of sinkholes.

The body of a man, 75, was recovered about 60 feet from his pickup truck in a ditch along a flooded road Sunday in White River, the Ashland County Sheriff's Office said Monday. Sheriff's officials said the investigation was ongoing but that the death was flood-related.

Heavy rains also flooded roads



ARTURO FERNANDEZ, ROCKFORD (ILL.) REGISTER STAR/AP

Mark Pickett, left, and Ryan Craig, right, work to rescue Bruce Salley, who was trapped in his car by floodwaters in a supermarket parking lot in Rockford, Ill., on Monday.

in northern areas of Minnesota, causing some sections to collapse. In parts of Michigan's Upper Peninsula, where up to 7 inches of rain was reported, swollen waterways washed away roads, leaving behind large chunks of concrete and asphalt and making some streets impassible.

"The majority of us can't even get home," Tom Cowell, who lives in Chassell, Mich., a community on a peninsula in Lake Superior, told local television station WLUC. "Roads are collapsed. Bridges are collapsed. Roads are covered in water."

"Whatever roads aren't collapsed, it depends on how heavy of a vehicle you drive whether or

The majority of us can't even get home. Roads are collapsed. Bridges are collapsed. ▶

Tom Cowell
resident of Chassell, Mich.

not you are able to drive on those roads. This is a pretty wild experience that we are having here."

In nearby Houghton, a swollen creek washed away much of a parking lot and a Taco Bell sign. The land up to the restaurant's building caved into an adjacent ravine. Water rushed down a hilly street through businesses, including a comic book store and sport-

ing goods shop where employees were trying to salvage goods.

Some residents used boats to get around, though the U.S. Coast Guard warned people to stay out of recreational waterways because of the amount of storm debris. The agency also warned that the water is still very cold and could be deadly.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder's

Curiosity's findings offer clues in search for life on Mars

BY AMINA KHAN
Los Angeles Times

Over nearly six years roaming the surface of Mars, NASA's Curiosity rover has detected organic molecules that offer a taste of what an ancient life-friendly red planet might have looked like. Now, the rover's pulled together a veritable feast.

The discovery of a wide variety of organic molecules and the detection of a seasonal methane pattern — described in two separate studies in the journal Science — add new fuel to the search for past life on Mars, scientists said.

"Both these finding(s) are breakthroughs in astrobiology," Inge Loes ten Kate, of the Netherlands' Utrecht University, who was not involved in either study, wrote in a commentary on the paper.

Ever since the twin Viking landers touched down in 1976, scientists have hunted for signs of organic molecules on Mars. At their most basic, organic molecules are those made of carbon and hydrogen atoms, though they can have other atoms (such as oxygen or sulfur), as well. They can come from living and nonliving sources, but because many are necessary for and produced by life on Earth, they're considered possible biosignatures — signs of the presence of life.

Curiosity, which has been exploring Gale Crater since it landed in 2012, has previously dug up signs of organic molecules in the ancient lake bed by taking rock samples and subjecting them to the suite of laboratory instruments in its belly. The problem was that these organic molecules contained an unusual atom: chlorine.

"The thing about the chlorinated molecules is that it's not what you'd typically find in natural samples, and so we weren't sure what the significance was at the time," Jennifer Eigenbrode, of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, lead author of one of the papers, said in a briefing. "However, it did give us a lot of motivation to keep looking."

So the rover was directed to drive about 4 miles to the base of Mount Sharp, the 3-mile-high mound in the middle of Gale Crater whose layers of sediments serve as individual chapters in the geological history of Mars. Samples were drawn from two locations, Mojave and Confidence hills, and subjected to Curiosity's Sample Analysis at Mars instrument suite.

For the previous mud stone samples that had produced the chlorinated molecules, scientists had heated the powdered rock to 200 degrees Celsius. For this sample, Eigenbrode and her colleagues analyzed only the gases that were released above 400 degrees Celsius.

At that temperature, "they can be certain that these gases are not a result of leaching reagent or reaction with perchlorate," ten Kate wrote.

The results revealed a wealth of organics, Eigenbrode said — including some that had carbons linked in ring structures (such as benzene) and others that include carbon chains (such as propane). "Because we see these coming off of the sample at high temperatures, what they're really telling us is that they're part of something larger — a macromolecule," she said. Such a macromolecule might potentially look something like kerogen, Eigenbrode said — a substance that's found in coal and black shale and meteorites. On Earth, it's often the result of ancient plant or microbial matter.

The second paper, led by Christopher Webster, of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in La Canada Flintridge, Calif., marks a major step toward solving the mystery of methane on Mars. Methane is one of those key organic molecules that on Earth are largely produced by living things, and can also be eaten by them, and so could theoretically serve as a signal of the possibility or presence of life. But methane can also be produced by normal geologic processes.

The first step to figuring out whether a methane signal is biological is to determine where it's coming from. On Mars, that's been a maddening challenge. Although scientists have detected bursts of methane on the planet, they've appeared at random — and thus, it's been difficult to figure out what the source is.

Now, with years of Curiosity's atmospheric readings at their disposal, Webster and his colleagues were able to analyze 55 Earth months (roughly three Martian years) of data, finding that there were indeed low levels of background radiation — and that it seemed to experience seasonal surges, nearly tripling at its peak near summer's end in the northern hemisphere (and winter's end in the south).

This seasonal pattern seems to imply that temperature changes might be triggering the seasonal release, the scientists said, suggesting that the methane might be stored in water-based crystals called clathrates.

"That's a huge change, completely unexpected," Webster said at the briefing. "And what it does is give us the key to unlocking the mysteries associated with methane because now we have something to test our models and our understanding against." The source of that methane, however, remains a mystery, he said.

office issued disaster declarations for Houghton and Menominee counties on Monday, which will allow the National Guard to deploy to the area to help with road repairs. Snyder's office said "hundreds of homes, businesses and public facilities and infrastructure" have been severely affected in the area.

In Wisconsin, Gov. Scott Walker on Monday declared a state of emergency in five northwestern counties — Ashland, Bayfield, Burnett, Douglas and Iron.

Walker planned to tour flood damage Monday night.

Michigan Tech University and Finlandia University remained closed Monday because of the flooding and road conditions.

As much as 10 inches of rain fell Saturday and Sunday in parts of eastern Minnesota, pushing the Mississippi River out of its banks, while 15 inches of rain fell in Drummond, Wis., southeast of the National Weather Service.

The rains caused an earthen dam to fail Monday in a rural area of northwestern Wisconsin. Water was overtopping the Radigan Flowage Dam west of Dairydale in an area where few people live, said Douglas County Emergency Management Director Keith Kesler. He said he was unaware of any evacuations.

The weather service on Monday extended a weekend flood warning through Thursday for northwestern Wisconsin and neighboring areas in Minnesota.

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NATION

Survey: Adult smoking rate hits new low

By MIKE STOBBE

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Smoking in the U.S. has hit another all-time low.

About 14 percent of U.S. adults were smokers last year, down from about 16 percent the year before, government figures show.

There hadn't been much change the previous two years, but it's been clear there's been a general decline and the new figures show it's continuing, said K. Michael Cummings, of the tobacco research program at Medical University of South Carolina.

"Everything is pointed in the right direction," including falling cigarette sales and other indicators, Cummings said.

The new figures released Tuesday mean there are still more than 30 million adult smokers in

the U.S., he added.

Teens are also shunning cigarettes. Survey results out last week showed smoking among high school students was down to 9 percent, a new low.

In the early 1960s, roughly 42 percent of U.S. adults smoked. It was common nearly everywhere — in office buildings, restaurants, airplanes and even hospitals. The decline has coincided with a greater understanding that smoking is a cause of cancer, heart disease and other health problems.

Anti-smoking campaigns, cigarette taxes and smoking bans are combining to bring down adult smoking rates, experts say.

The launch of electronic cigarettes and their growing popularity has also likely played a role. E-cigarettes heat liquid nicotine into a vapor without the harm-

ful by-products generated from burning tobacco.

That makes them a potentially useful tool to help smokers quit, but some public health experts worry it also creates a new way for people to get addicted to nicotine.

There was no new information for adult use of e-cigarettes and vaping products, but 2016 figures put that at 3 percent of adults.

Vaping is more common among teens than adults. About 13 percent of high school students use e-cigarettes or other vaping devices.

The findings on adult smokers come from a national health survey by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. About 27,000 adults were interviewed last year.



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

The rate of smoking among adults in the U.S. fell to about 14 percent in 2017, according to new data released by the government Tuesday.

Report: 46 percent of civilian-held firearms are in US

By EDITH M. LEDERER

Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — There are more than 1 billion firearms in the world today, including 857 million in civilian hands — with American men and women the dominant owners, according to a study released Monday.

The Small Arms Survey says 393 million of the civilian-held firearms, 46 percent, are in the United States, which is "more than those held by civilians in the other top 25 countries combined."

"The key to the United States, of course, is its unique gun culture," the report's author, Aaron Karp, said at a news conference. "American civilians buy an average of 14 million new firearms every year, and that means the United States is an overwhelming presence on civilian markets."

The report said the numbers include legal and illegal firearms in civilian hands, ranging from improvised craft weapons to factory-made handguns, rifles, shotguns and, in some countries, even machine guns.

The estimate of more than 1 billion firearms worldwide at the end of 2017 also includes 133 million such weapons held by government military forces and 22.7 million by law enforcement agencies, it said.

Karp said the new global estimate is significantly higher than the 875 million firearms estimated in the last survey in 2007, and the 650 million civilian-held firearms at that time — mostly due to increasing civilian ownership.

While the United States was dominant in civilian ownership in 2007 and 2017, the report said the U.S. is only fifth today in military firearms holdings, behind Russia, China, North Korea and Ukraine. It is also fifth in law enforcement holdings, behind Russia, China, India and Egypt.

The Small Arms Survey re-launched its study to coincide with



Handguns are displayed at a trade show in Las Vegas in January 2016. A new study of small arms by the Small Arms Survey estimates there are more than 1 billion legal and illicit firearms in the world today and says 46 percent of civilian-held firearms are in the U.S.

JOHN LOCHER/AP

the third U.N. conference to assess progress on implementing a 2011 program known as Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms, which includes marking weapons so they can be traced. The conference opened Monday and ends June 29.

Small Arms Survey director Eric Berman stressed that the Geneva-based research and policy institute isn't an advocacy organization.

"We don't advocate disarmament. We are not against guns," he said.

"What we want to do, and what we have done successfully for the last 19 years, is to be able to provide authoritative information and analysis for governments so that they can work to address illicit proliferation and reduce it —

and to reduce also the incidents of armed violence."

Karp, a lecturer at Old Dominion University in Virginia, said that since the 2007 report, "we have a much more accurate picture of the distribution of firearms around the world than we've ever had before."

He said information, including on civilian ownership from 133 countries, has enabled the Small Arms Survey to publish figures on 230 countries and autonomous territories.

But he cautioned that every country's figures include "some degree of estimation."

According to the report, the countries with the largest estimated number of civilian-held legal and illegal firearms at the end of 2017 were the United States with 393.3 million, India

with 71.1 million, China with 49.7 million, Pakistan with 43.9 million and Russia with 17.6 million.

But Karp said the more important number is the estimated rate of civilian firearms holdings per 100 residents — and in that table India, China and Russia rank much lower than the U.S. and outside the top 25 while Pakistan ranks 20th.

At the top of that ranking are Americans, who own 121 firearms for every 100 residents. They are followed by Yemenis at 53, Montenegro and Serbia with 39, Canada and Uruguay about 35, and Finland, Lebanon and Iceland around 32.

Karp said the Small Arms Survey doesn't have year-by-year data, but countries whose ownership appears to have gone down relative to 2007 include Finland,

Iraq, Sweden and Switzerland, though he cautioned that could be due to better data. He said ownership rates in Canada and Iceland are "clearly up" while the rates in Cyprus, Yemen, Serbia and the United States remained relatively stable.

Anna Alvazzi del Frate, the institute's program director, said that "the countries with the highest level of firearm violence — they don't rank high in terms of ownership per person."

"So what we see is that there is no direct correlation at the global level between firearm ownership and violence," she said.

But "the correlation exists with firearm suicides, and it is so strong that it can be used, at least in Western countries, as a proxy for measurement," Alvazzi del Frate said.

NATION

High court to take on fight over Apple's App Store

By TONY ROMM
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday announced it would consider a case that asks whether consumers can sue Apple for the way it manages millions of apps for iPhones and iPads, threatening to expose not only Apple but its tech industry peers to new antitrust scrutiny.

The new fight in front of the nation's nine justices stems from a lawsuit initiated in California almost seven years ago. Robert Pepper and three other iPhone-owning plaintiffs allege that Apple has "monopolized" the market for iPhone apps because it has total control over the games, utilities and other offerings that appear in its App Store.

Apple has vigorously opposed the lawsuit, and courts have split as to whether consumers are directly harmed by the iPhone giant's App Store policies. After a recent loss, Apple appealed to the Supreme Court, which must address whether con-

sumers have standing to bring such a case in the first place.

A loss for Apple could mean trouble for other companies, such as Google and Microsoft, which also have their own repositories for third-party apps on smartphones and other devices. It could mean a "potential flood of lawsuits," said Morgan Reed, the leader of ACT, The App Association, a Washington-based trade group for app makers that is sponsored by Apple. It has asked the Supreme Court to halt

the lawsuit.

A spokesman for Apple did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment. Arguments are slated for the court's next term, which begins in October.

The lawsuit could also force Apple to

rethink the way it manages its App Store, long considered one of the most highly curated platforms in the business. For one thing, Apple generally takes a 30 percent cut of all third-party apps sold through its own portal. In the eyes of plaintiffs, that fee ultimately hurts consumers because developers pass those added costs on to iPhone and iPad users who purchase the paid apps.

Consumers "don't like the fact that they're being forced to buy apps only on the App Store, and they're forced to pay a 30 percent markup," said Mark Riffkin, a senior partner at Wolf Haldenstein who represents the plaintiffs.

A key issue facing the justices is who exactly is Apple's customer.

Apple has argued that its policies target developers, not consumers. It has likened itself to a shopping mall that "leases space to various stores," which then sell to shoppers. In a digital context, Apple says consumers aren't buying apps from

the company — they're buying them from the creator of those apps through the App Store interface. The arguments rest on a Supreme Court decision from the 1970s, which found consumers can't seek damages in cases in which a company allegedly charged a third party and that third party passed the costs onto its customers.

A lower court ruled in Apple's favor. Then, in 2017, the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit saw it differently. It sided with plaintiffs, granting them a green light to sue because they are "direct purchasers from Apple." That created a conflict with other courts' rulings, opening the door for Apple to petition the Supreme Court in September.

A month later, the justices asked the U.S. government — which isn't a party to the court battle — to share its views. The solicitor general in May similarly suggested the Supreme Court take a closer look, arguing the lawsuit against Apple should not have proceeded in the first place.

AI demonstration pits IBM computer against 2 human debaters

By MATT O'BRIEN
Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — IBM pitted a computer against two human debaters in the first public demonstration of artificial intelligence technology it's been working on for more than five years.

The company unveiled its Project Debater in San Francisco on Monday, asking it to make a case for government-subsidized space research — a topic it hadn't studied in advance but championed fiercely with just a few awkward gaps in reasoning.

"Subsidizing space exploration is like investing in really good tires," argued the computer system, its female voice embodied in a 5-foot-tall machine shaped like a monolith with TV screens on its sides. Such research would enrich the human mind, inspire young people and be a "very sound investment," it said, making it more important even than good roads, schools or health care.

The computer delivered its opening argument by pulling in evidence from its huge internal repository of newspapers, journals and other sources. It then listened to a professional human debater's counter-argument and spent four minutes rebutting it.

After closing arguments it moved on to a second debate about telemedicine.

An IBM research team based in Israel began working on the project not long after IBM's Watson computer beat two human quizmasters on a "Jeopardy" challenge in 2011.

But rather than just scanning a giant trove of data in search of factsoids, IBM's latest project taps into several more complex

'They (humans) bring in their own personal experience as a way to illustrate the point. The machine doesn't live in the real world or have a life that's able to tap into.'

Dario Gil
IBM's vice president of AI research

branches of AI.

Search engine algorithms used by Google and Microsoft's Bing use similar technology to digest and summarize written content and compose new paragraphs. Voice assistants such as Amazon's Alexa rely on listening comprehension to answer questions posed by people. Google recently demonstrated an eerily humanlike voice assistant that can call hair salons or restaurants to make appointments.

But IBM said it's breaking new ground by creating a system that tackles deeper human practices of rhetoric and analysis and how they're used to discuss big questions whose answers aren't always clear.

"If you think of the rules of debate, they're far more generalized than the rules of a board game," said Ranit Aharonov, who manages the debater project.

As expected, the machine tends to be better than humans at bringing in numbers and other detailed supporting evidence. It's also able to latch onto the most salient and attention-getting elements of an argument, and can even deliver some self-referential jokes about being a



Dan Zafir, left, and Noa Ovadia prepare for their debate against the IBM Project Debater on Monday in San Francisco.

computer.

But it lacks tact, researchers said. Sometimes the jokes don't come out right. And on Monday, some of the sources it cited — such as a German official and an Arab sheikh — didn't seem particularly germane.

"Humans tend to be better at using more expressive language, more original language," said Dario Gil, IBM's vice president of AI research. "They bring in their own personal experience as a way to illustrate the point. The machine doesn't live in the real world or have a life that's able to tap into."

There are no immediate plans to turn Project Debater into a commercial product, but Gil said it could be useful in the future in helping lawyers or other human workers make informed decisions.



Noam Slomim, principal investigator, stands with the IBM Project Debater on Monday.

STARS AND STRIPES

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BY JEH CHARLES JOHNSON
Special To The Washington Post

My wife and I spent Mother's Day in 2014 at a U.S. Border Patrol center in McAllen, Texas. The facility had been built for single adults, but it looked like a crude day-care center flooded with children.

In the midst of that flood, my eyes were drawn to one little girl sitting alone at a desk and being processed by a Border Patrol agent. I was struck by her long, black hair, which was beautiful despite the hot and dirty journey from Central America she just had completed. I asked her, "Why did you come here?" She replied, "I'm looking for my mother in the United States." She began to cry, the translator began to cry, and I began to cry.

As I witness the Trump administration's current practice of separating children from their parents at the border with Mexico, the image of that little girl and hundreds of other migrant women and children is fixed in my mind.

Hesitate to criticize my successors in office who are burdened with the responsibility of keeping the U.S. homeland and its borders secure. I hesitate to cast doubt on the hard work those same forces worked for me in the Department of Homeland Security. But when it comes to certain offensive and wrongheaded government policies, those of us with a public voice and who understand the issue cannot stay silent.

The current "zero tolerance" deterrent

policy, resulting in the separation of 2,000 innocent migrant children from their parents, is immoral and un-American. Beyond that, the policy will in the long run prove to be ineffective. Experience teaches (as career personnel at the DHS know) that widely publicized changes in immigration enforcement policy may cause sharp downturns in the level of illegal migration in the short term, but migration patterns then revert to their higher, traditional levels so long as underlying conditions persist. I learned this hard lesson while in office; the Trump administration is learning it now.

In my three years as secretary of homeland security, the government deported, repatriated or returned about 1 million people in the enforcement of the immigration laws. To address illegal migration, I considered and directed a number of very unattractive measures. When illegal migration spiked in 2014, we expanded our family detention capability, a move that I freely admit was controversial (even though, unlike the Trump administration's approach, it kept children with their parents). Our efforts brought mixed results. In 2015, we saw a sharp decrease in apprehensions on the southern border to the lowest levels since 1972. But in fiscal 2016 the numbers increased again.

It is human instinct to save yourself and your family by fleeing a burning building. So long as the powerful "push factors" of poverty and violence in Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador persist, the U.S. will continue to wrestle with the

problem of illegal migration on the border with Mexico. Further, the current policy is unsustainable. We cannot continue to flood the federal courts across the Southwest with thousands of new migrants per month to extract assembly line guilty pleas from them while also filling facilities for holding migrant adults, children and families. These facilities are already at full capacity, and the policy is blowing a hole through the budgets of the DHS, the Justice Department and the Department of Health and Human Services. Meanwhile, other vital law enforcement and homeland security priorities are being overlooked.

The answer to the underlying problem is twofold. First, send more aid to Central America. In 2016, Congress started down this road by appropriating \$750 million in assistance for Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. In subsequent years that level of support has fallen off. Congress must do more. Second, encourage the neighboring countries in the region — Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica and Belize — to develop their own systems, as alternatives to the United States, for accepting Central American refugees and asylum-seekers. This is not politics; it is basic common sense.

It is also common sense that children belong with their parents. Americans should demand that their government end its current cruel, disastrous policy on the southern border.

Jeh Charles Johnson served as secretary of homeland security from 2013 to 2017.

A plea for WWI remembrance and learning

BY CHARLES R. BOWERY JR.
Special to Stars and Stripes

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the American battles of World War I. A century ago, on May 28, 1918, men from the First Division, American Expeditionary Forces, went "over the top" outside a tiny village called Cantigny, in northern France, to conduct the first all-American offensive action of the war. A week later, two regiments of U.S. Marines had their baptism of fire in a bucolic place called Belleau Wood, in the Marne River Valley east of Paris. In the six months that followed, some 2 million U.S. soldiers, Marines and Navy sailors served and fought in 12 separate battles against the occupation of Germany that followed. More than 100,000 of those men and women did not return, and some 30,000 rest in American cemeteries in France, Belgium and the United Kingdom.

Over the coming months, the U.S. Army and Marine Corps will conduct a number of observances, both here at home and in Europe, to commemorate America's involvement in World War I. The U.S. government has also formed a World War I Centennial Commission, with the mission of raising awareness and education across the country. The commission is engaged in a campaign to construct a National World War I Memorial in Washington.

Frank Buckles, of West Virginia, the last living American veteran of World War I, passed away in 2011. His death accelerated our national process of forgetting about the "Great War," as many termed it at the time. This neglect is not a recent development, however. Even as American troops shipped out "over there" in 1917, the nation was deeply divided over U.S. involvement in the conflict. A nation in the process of receiving thousands of immigrants from the belligerent nations, one whose domestic politics included voting restrictions for most women and Jim Crow legislation reducing blacks to second-class citizens, as well as labor disputes and violence, could

hardly be otherwise. The United States mobilized some 4 million men and women to serve during the war, and suffered almost 300,000 casualties in the horrific fighting in Europe.

The fractious, imperfect peace that followed, including President Woodrow Wilson's failed League of Nations, added to the national ambivalence over the conflict advertised by many as a "war to end all wars." The experience of black soldiers, thousands of whom volunteered and served overseas, fighting a two-sided war against a battlefield enemy and their own systematic oppression at home, awakened the civil rights movement while it added to the national uncertainty about what the war meant. The war catapulted the U.S. into a global leadership role that it was, at the time, unwilling to accept, and it spawned socio-political resistance and rebellion in the form of socialist movements, the Jazz Age and the "Roaring Twenties." The advent of the Great Depression and the coming of another world war, which came to be seen as an unloosed Good War, allowed many in America to put aside the experiences of 1914-18.

American society likes to remember its martial past in black and white, with technologically advanced and numerous American fighting men always on the side of good, and a triumphant process of victory followed by reconciliation. This is the way the nation came to remember its own Civil War, even as it accommodated the losing side in our collective memory and marginalized black voices until very recently. World War II has become an industry of tourism and remembrance for the U.S. and its allies because it is largely seen in those terms. World War I simply does not fit this framework; it offers more frustration than closure, more conflict than resolution.

For the U.S. military, World War I is something of an origin story. A soldier, sailor, Marine, airman or Coast Guardsman serving today would recognize his or her counterpart in 1918; the policies, pro-

cedures and technologies that underpin our 21st-century forces saw their beginnings in World War I. For GIs, this centennial is a teachable moment, and it is worthwhile for young men and women in uniform to understand the scale of national mobilization in that war. The vast majority of those 4 million were citizen-soldiers, volunteers from civilian life.

I would encourage all Americans to learn about the World War I era. There are echoes of this age in literally every aspect of our lives today. Research your family's World War I history. Look around wherever you live; you will probably see a World War I memorial or a building dedicated to those who served in the war. They are all around us, as the national commission's "Hundred Cities, Hundred Memorials" campaign so aptly describes. Take a moment to learn about the wartime experiences of blacks and women. Investigate the cultural impact of Americans abroad: Did you know that black soldiers introduced jazz to Europe? American women used their service in many wartime roles to jumpstart the women's suffrage movement that gained them the right to vote in 1919. Indeed, the timing of the 19th Amendment is not a coincidence. Read or reread "The Great Gatsby," and consider it as a work of war literature. If business or pleasure travel takes you to Europe, plan a visit to a cemetery or memorial administered by the American Battle Monuments Commission. You will come away with a different perspective of our place in the world, and your place as an American citizen.

In whatever way you can, resolve to capitalize on the World War I Centennial. By taking this opportunity to remember, but more importantly to learn from the perspective that the past can offer us, we can arrest the slow drift of forgetting about the single most formative event in modern American history.

Charles R. Bowery Jr. is executive director of the United States Army Center of Military History.

OPINION

How a GOP senator forced Trump's hand

By MATT WELCH
Los Angeles Times

Is there a character more derided in modern American politics than the anti-Trump Republican?

Consider soon-to-retire Sen. Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., a possible primary challenger to President Donald Trump in 2020 and author of a best-seller attacking the president's America-first ideology. When Flake responded to the administration's brutish comments about Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau by tweeting "Fellow Republicans, this is not who we are," the condemnation was swift and brutal — from the left.

"This is exactly who you are," the Splitter's Emma Roller snapped back. "Flake's criticism of Trump's G-7 antics is a sham," hissed Think Progress. Hand-wringing GOP senators such as Flake, John McCain and Susan Collins, charged the activists at Blue Virginia, are just a bunch of melodramatic Democracy Peacocks — all plume, no teeth.

The best version of these critiques is that Flake and his cohorts should, you know, do something. So it's interesting to examine the successful tactics of a Republican senator who did just that — Colorado's first-term Sen. Cory Gardner.

Gardner, 43, is a former House GOP "Young Gun" known for being more problem-solver than bomb-thrower. He displayed both talents, however, in managing to persuade a law-and-order president who appointed a drug-warrior attorney general to come out in favor of leaving legal marijuana alone.

In a wide-ranging back-and-forth with reporters at the end of last week, Trump was asked whether he supported a bipartisan bill introduced by Gardner and Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., the Strengthening the Tenth Amendment Through Entrusting States (STATES) Act — which



AP

Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., is a former House GOP "Young Gun" known for being more problem-solver than bomb-thrower.

would make the federal Controlled Substances Act inapplicable in states where pot-related activity has been legalized.

"I really do," Trump said. "I support Sen. Gardner. I know exactly what he's doing. We're looking at it, but we'll probably end up supporting that, yes."

While nothing in Trumpworld is guar-

anteed until the ink is dry, this could be a huge turning point against the long-ruinous drug war. How did Gardner work this magic? By doing something Republicans excelled at when Barack Obama was president but which they have largely ignored since: using every bit of leverage they command to frustrate a power-wielding president.

Gardner went berserk in January when Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced that he was rescinding the Justice Department's 2013 memo guiding U.S. attorneys to de-prioritize federal enforcement against state-level marijuana operations. Colorado had voted to legalize recreational marijuana in November 2012, and had begun legal sales in January 2014. Gardner wasn't in favor of legalization in 2012, but in 2018 he was ready to defend his state's law.

"I believe that what happened today is a trampling of Colorado's rights," he said in a podium-thumping speech after Sessions' decision was made public. Prior to the attorney general's confirmation, Gardner charged, he had promised that the 2013 memo would not be rescinded and that pot enforcement would not be an administration priority.

"Until he lives up to that commitment," Gardner said, "I will be holding all nominations to the Department of Justice."

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., likes to say that the world's greatest deliberative body is largely in the "personnel business," moving briskly through the confirmation of judges, Cabinet members and lower-level executive branch appointments. Gardner gummed up that machinery for three months by using his parliamentary ability to place a hold on a nomination, a barrier that can only be overcome through a time-sapping cloture vote.

It took about 20 holds for Trump to crack. In April, Gardner issued a news release saying he had obtained a verbal

commitment from the president to support legislation protecting states that legalized marijuana from federal drug law enforcement, despite his attorney general's proclivities. The president's comment last week indicates that the promise will have more staying power than, say, Trump's "firm commitment" to Flake to work on a solution to the Deferred Action on Childhood Arrivals program in exchange for Flake's yes vote on last year's tax cut.

So is Gardner's form of horse-taking scalable? It's certainly worth a try among Trump-averse Republicans in the Senate, given that chamber's slim 51-47-2 GOP majority (with the two independents caucusing with Democrats). But there are some unique aspects to the presidential buy-in on pot legalization.

First, Trump favored state decision-making about marijuana when he was on the campaign trail. Second, keeping the feels out of the enforcement business in potential states is widely popular — 70 percent in an April Quinnipiac poll. (Straight-up legalization is now polling at 63 percent, a percentage no president has ever achieved in the popular vote.) And finally, let's not forget that Trump isn't exactly shy about tweaking Jeff Sessions.

Favorable conditions aside, Gardner clearly forced the issue. The Senate is designed to be obstructionist, to thwart the ambitions of presidents and House members who want to get things done fast. For those senators who consider the president a challenge to the fundamental ideas of conservatism, Gardner's example is instructive. Instead of merely standing athwart C-SPAN's view of history yelling "stop," they should use the power the Constitution and the Senate's rule book gives them and stick out a foot when the president walks by.

Matt Welch is editor at large at Reason magazine and a contributing writer to Opinion.

On-call work schedules make it hard to have a life

By NOAH SMITH
Bloomberg Opinion

In recent months, a number of big, bold proposals have been advanced to relieve economic pressure on the poor, including a federal job guarantee, a universal basic income and single-payer health care. But a lot of more modest but still important ideas are being overlooked. One of these is the idea of stable work scheduling.

Over the years, many employers, especially retailers, have moved away from reliable, fixed schedules where workers have the same hours every week. The initial reason they did this was to meet demand — when there are lots of customers in a store, you need lots of workers to serve them, but when the store is almost empty, paying a lot of staff to stand around simply hurts the bottom line.

But variable work schedules have gone well beyond simply matching staffing levels to customer numbers. Companies realized that they could eke out improvements to their bottom lines by keeping low-paid, insecure workers on call at all times, desperately hoping to be given the chance to work. The horror stories abound. Some workers are inexplicably not given hours for an entire week. When others request scheduling changes, they are answered with dramatic cuts in their hours. Still others have on-call scheduling, where they are forced to sit by the phone waiting to see

if they'll be given paid work.

This sort of insecure scheduling, which now applies to about 10 percent of the U.S. workforce, hurts workers in a number of ways. First, being on call constrains a worker's unpaid hours, preventing them from getting another job, completing various types of chores, managing child care or enjoying many leisure activities. Second, income uncertainty makes it harder for people to plan their consumption and save money. Surveys find that unpredictable schedules are a significant source of stress.

A number of Democratic legislators, including Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, have been pushing for a fix. Their bill would set minimum weekly hours, require two weeks' notification of scheduling changes, ban employers from retaliating against workers who request different schedules, and implement a number of other changes. But the effort is sure to see plenty of pushback from retailers, who will claim that the proposed regulations will hurt their profits.

Enter academics. In 2015, an interdisciplinary team of researchers led by University of California, Hastings legal scholar Joan C. Williams conducted an experiment with Gap to see how more regular scheduling would really affect a retailer. Their results demonstrated that if done right, established schedules aren't just good for workers, but for corporate profits as well.

After a seven-month pilot study at three stores, Gap decided that it would eliminate on-call scheduling and implement two weeks' notice for changes to working hours at all of its stores. The full experiment, which included 28 stores and ran for nine months, went further. At those stores, workers were given an app that let them swap shifts without manager approval, and allowed managers to post new shifts as the need arose. Core employees were offered a soft guarantee of 20 hours a week. Managers attempted to maximize the consistency of pay for employees, and the stores were paid to add staff at times when demand was predicted to be high — a practice known as targeted additional staffing.

The changes had a number of positive effects — not just for the workers, but for managers and for the company as a whole. The workers who received the soft guarantee of 20 hours a week saw this promise honored, and their extra hours didn't come at the expense of other employees. All employees saw the consistency of their hours increase. That didn't hurt sales or productivity — it led to increases. The median store where the experiment was carried out saw a 7 percent increase in sales, and generated an additional \$6.20 of revenue per hour per employee. Since this is a very large increase in sales and productivity, and the only cost associated with the program was the modest expense of targeted additional staffing, the researchers esti-

mate that the company's return on investment was high — in other words, regular schedules almost certainly help the bottom line as well as the top.

Why did these stores make money instead of lose money? Any lost flexibility from consistent scheduling was more than made up for by other factors. One of these was reduced turnover costs — more consistent hours meant that fewer employees quit, reducing the need to spend money hiring and training new people. Also, surveys indicated that morale improved at the stores — happier workers tend to be more productive. Finally, managers simply wasted less time planning schedules, allowing them to do more important work.

This study has several important lessons. First, legal efforts to mandate and/or reward regular work scheduling shouldn't be viewed as helping workers at the expense of employers, but as a way to help both at once. Second, the solution to the problem of irregular scheduling requires a multi-pronged attack — banning certain practices, using innovative new technologies and changing corporate culture.

In an age of big ideas, regular work scheduling may not seem like Earth-shattering, but it's a low-cost way to make the lives of the U.S.' precarious service-worker class a lot less painful.

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is an assistant professor of finance at Stony Brook University.

WORLD

3 shot dead after leaving Swedish cafe

By JAM M. OLSEN
Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — The fatal shooting of three men in Malmö, Sweden's third-largest city, was the latest incident in suburban feuds between criminal gangs fighting over territory or honor. Sweden's justice minister called the shootings an "abominable crime."

Police in Malmö said Tuesday that three of the men — ages 19, 27 and 29 — had died overnight. None of the victims was identified, in line with Swedish practice.

Three others — ages 21, 30 and 32 — had been injured — one seriously, said Region Skåne, the regional health authority for southern Sweden.

"It is an abominable crime and reminds us once again that our main task is to fight organized crime," Swedish Justice Minister Morgan Johansson told the Swedish TT News Agency.

Malmö police Chief Stefan Sinteus told a news conference that the shooting likely was linked to

feuding criminal gangs that are fighting over territory and honor, conflicts that have become more common in major Swedish cities in recent years. In Malmö alone, there are three or four gang feuds, Sinteus said.

"Those involved are to be considered as gang members who are involved in serious organized crime," Sinteus said. "It is unusual that three die in the same incident."

"We didn't see it coming," he added.

Sinteus said there was no motive known for the late Monday shooting, "but generally speaking," a feud could start over business conflicts, girls or a perceived lack of respect by others.

The men were shot as they left an internet cafe in the southeastern part of the southern Swedish city Monday evening. Police could not confirm media reports that the shots had been fired from a car and that an automatic weapon had been used.

Police said a dozen shots were fired but no arrests have been



JOHAN NILSSON, TT NEWS AGENCY/AP

Police stand next to a cordoned-off area in Malmö, Sweden, on Monday after a drive-by shooting in which three people died.

made, and they are looking for a dark vehicle.

The shots caused screaming

among bystanders, but police quickly said there was no reason for the public to worry.



HENG SOTHINH/AP

Cambodian protesters hold signs in front of the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on Tuesday.

Fired US Embassy guards in Cambodia stage protest

Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia — Almost three dozen security guards fired by the U.S. Embassy in Cambodia for allegedly sharing pornography on smartphones they used for work held a protest Tuesday demanding proper compensation from their former employer.

The 32 protesting guards said they had been sacked without a full explanation and not according to the law, and placards they held complained of injustice. One held a portrait of Prime Minister Hun Sen, who has been very critical of the United States as he burnishes his nationalist credentials ahead of a general election next month.

The protesters acknowledged that some pornographic images had been shared but argued that it had been on a private chat group they had set up on Facebook Messenger and not the official embassy chat group. Reports in Cambodia media had said some images featured people under the age of 18, but one placard declared the allegation untrue.

A spokesman for the embassy, David Josar, said it did not comment on internal personnel matters but took the problem of child pornography seriously and also respected the right to peaceful protest. An embassy official accepted a petition from the group.

The protesters claimed the phones at issue were their own property, not the embassy's. They also accused the embassy of violating their rights by searching through their phones.

The guards said their terms of employment at the embassy ranged from five to 20 years. They said since they got fired in late March, they have filed several complaints with the embassy but had not received a satisfactory response. Until the matter was fairly resolved, they said, they would continue to protest.

"We are here today because we think that our rights have been abused by the United States, which is a big country and regarded as the father of democracy in the world," said protester Im Ra, 38.

Japan to inspect walls at schools after deaths

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO — Japan's government has ordered an emergency inspection of cinder-block walls at schools nationwide, a day after an earthquake in Osaka killed five people, two of whom were crushed by falling walls.

The magnitude 6.1 earthquake that struck Osaka during Monday's morning rush hour injured more than 370 people in the region, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency. The quake also damaged many buildings and disrupted traffic.

Authorities confirmed a fifth victim Tuesday — a man, 66, found covered with books and other objects at a home in Takatsuki.

The death of Rina Miyake, 9, just outside her school in Takatsuki city has sparked concerns about cinder-block walls and prompted authorities to call for safety checks.

An 80-year-old man who was on his way to volunteer in a neighborhood watch while children walked to school also was killed by a collapsing wall.

Education Minister Yoshimasa Hayashi told reporters Tuesday he was ordering all public elementary and junior high schools to "urgently" inspect their walls.

Minister of Land, Infrastructure and Transport Keiichi Ishii said he planned to raise awareness of the potential risks of cinder-block walls among private property owners, as well.

Concrete walls made of stacked cinder blocks are a known risk in earthquakes, but the danger has been largely ignored even though

the current building codes call for walls built before 1981 to be upgraded. Japan introduced stricter quake-resistant standards in 1981 after cinder-block walls caused 11 of 16 deaths in a 1978 quake in northern Japan.

Japanese schools have largely upgraded the safety of classrooms and other buildings to meet current anti-quake standards, but many of the old cinder-block walls have been left untouched. Past local government surveys in school neighborhoods have found most walls lack additional safety reinforcement.

Some quake-prone cities in central and eastern Japan, including Tokyo, Aichi and Shizuoka, have started offering subsidies for dismantling or reinforcing cinder-block walls as a way to motivate private owners.

Officials in Takatsuki city have acknowledged that the wall at the municipal-run school that broke and killed the girl exceeded the legal height limit of about 7 feet. On Tuesday, police investigated the site and city officials on suspicion of professional negligence.

Elsewhere in Takatsuki and the other hardest-hit areas, relief workers and residents worked to return life to normal. Many homes remained without safe drinking water or gas Tuesday.

While some stores remained closed Tuesday for safety inspections or repairs, residents rushed to operating grocery stores to stock up on bottled water, instant noodles and other preserved food.

Authorities have warned residents of possible strong aftershocks.

Dozens missing after ferry sinks in lake

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Rescuers searching Tuesday for dozens of people missing after a ferry sank on Indonesia's Lake Toba found bags, jackets, an ID card and other items in the waters but no new survivors, casting a tragic pall over holidays marking the end of the Muslim holy month.

Police said in a statement that 18 people were rescued and one body was recovered, unchanged from figures released by disaster and police officials after the ferry sank Monday evening. It released the names of 94 people confirmed as missing but said the figure was expected to rise as information from relatives is compiled.

Cellphone video released by the National Disaster Mitigation Agency showed the crew of another ferry attempting to rescue people struggling in the waters shortly after the sinking but being hampered by bad weather and rough waters. Distracted relatives gathered at major ferry docks on the lake, hoping for news of missing family members.

Man said to promote sex cruises is arrested

BANGKOK — Thai police said Tuesday they have arrested an Australian man for allegedly promoting sex cruises with prostitutes on a Facebook page.

Police said Stephen Allan Carpenter, 49, was arrested Monday night in the central province of Saraburi. He was brought to the seaside resort town of Pattaya, where he operated his business and where an arrest warrant had been issued.

Carpenter has been charged with procuring women for prostitution, posting pornographic material online, overstaying his visa and working illegally as a tour guide.

Carpenter's business, AUST-HAI Tours, advertised online a six-hour cruise with women at a cost of between \$1,187 and \$1,562, said police Lt. Col. Dullayapat Techapornayasin, of the Transnational Crime Coordination Center.

Former Mexican leader joins High Times board

LOS ANGELES — Former Mexico President Vicente Fox, who calls himself a soldier in the global campaign to legalize marijuana, is joining the board of directors of venerable cannabis publication High Times to advance his agenda.

Speaking with The Associated Press about his views on cannabis and his new appointment, Fox said he foresees a day when a robust legal marketplace will produce new jobs and medicines while sharply reducing cartel violence in his home country.

He also sees pot being part of the North American Free Trade Agreement among Mexico, Canada and the U.S., where some 30 states are embracing legalized marijuana in some form.

From The Associated Press

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Sisters held in 'mutual combat' stabbings

WI MADISON — Two sisters accused of stabbing each other during a fight in front of five small children are in jail in Wisconsin pending criminal charges.

The Madison Police Department said officers were dispatched to a residence just after noon Saturday after one woman reported she had been stabbed. The officers arrived to find two "uncooperative" sisters, ages 24 and 23, with stab wounds on their arms.

A police statement says the women had "engaged in mutual combat," but did not suffer life-threatening wounds. Police said both women will be charged with domestic recklessly endangering safety.

The statement also says a 30-year-old man is suspected of initiating the disturbance.

Child Protective Services was called to assist with the five children.

Woman strangles rabid bobcat in front yard

GA HARTWELL — A 46-year-old woman strangled a rabid bobcat to death after the animal attacked her in her front yard in northeast Georgia.

The Athens-Banner Herald reported DeDe Phillips, of Hart County, went outside June 7 to take a picture when the bobcat lunged at her. She grabbed the cat by its throat and didn't let go.

Phillips said her father-in-law was once a trapper of bobcats, and she knew something about the animal's behavior.

The woman is being treated for rabies and is recovering from a broken finger and several bite and claw wounds to her hands, arms, chest and legs.

School stops yearbook sales over Nazi quote

MA ANDOVER — A Massachusetts high school has pulled its yearbook after the principal found out that a student had used a quote generally attributed to Adolf Hitler or Joseph Goebbels under his picture.

Andover High Principal Philip Conrad said he was "horrified" to learn of the Nazi origins of the quote about making people believe lies, which made it through a painstaking vetting process.

Conrad said the student, whom he did not identify, did not know the origin of the quote. He said the student "sincerely regrets his choice."

Students who already have yearbooks either can get a custom sticker to cover the quote or they can return their books and get replacements.

Meat laced with rat poison found in yards

CO FORT COLLINS — A Colorado humane society group says food laced with rat poison has been found in several yards in a southeast Fort Collins neighborhood.

The Coloradoan reported that the Larimer Humane Society said it has received several reports of

THE CENSUS

\$132K

The amount a Kansas woman says an insurance company wants her family to pay after her 5-year-old son accidentally knocked over a sculpture at a city community center. Sarah Goodman said the incident happened last month at Overland Park's Tomahawk Ridge Community Center. Goodman said she didn't see the artwork hit the ground but her son suffered minor injuries when it fell.



ALAN CAMPBELL, ROCKY MOUNT (N.C.) TELEGRAM/AP

A mighty swing

Alauna Johnson, 3, strikes the lever with a mallet Friday while playing the high striker game during the Summer Reading Kick-Off Party at Braswell Memorial Library in Rocky Mount, N.C.

suspicious food items found in yards in the Fossil Lake Ranch neighborhood. Fort Collins police officer Dustin Weir said police responded to one report of suspicious meatballs found in the yard of a home on June 9.

The group's community outreach manager, Kaylene Weingardt, said no animals have been harmed.

Dog that was shot twice is given a new home

OR PORTLAND — A dog that was shot twice and left for dead in a rugged area of northeastern Oregon has been given a new home.

KATU-TV reported the dog named Rez was found in the mountains near Pendleton in February covered in blood from two bullet wounds in the head, causing him to lose an eye and several teeth.

The Tri-City Animal Shelter in Pasco, Wash., searched for a new home for Rez for months and eventually connected him with Nolan Sheehan, who recently

moved to Ellensburg, Wash., after returning from a deployment to Afghanistan.

Officer finds lost \$20K engagement ring

NY FIRE ISLAND — Long Island police said an officer used his personal metal detector to find a woman's \$20,000 engagement ring she lost on the beach on Fire Island.

The Suffolk County Police Department said the woman reached out Saturday, saying she lost her ring sometime during the weekend.

Marine Bureau Police Officer Edmund McDowell used his metal detector to the beach where the woman had been sitting and found the ring after about 10 minutes of searching.

Tests confirm mystery animal shot was a wolf

MT HELENA — Montana wildlife officials have confirmed that an unusual look-

ing animal shot in central Montana was a wolf.

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks officials initially weren't certain what the creature was when a rancher shot it near Denton in May. They noted the legs, front claws and canine teeth were shorter and its ears were bigger than normally seen on wolves.

The agency said Monday that an inspection of the animal at its wildlife health laboratory revealed it to be a relatively normal-looking wolf. DNA tests confirmed that the animal was a gray wolf.

Motorists on freeway help protect horse

CA LOS ANGELES — Motorists on a Southern California freeway formed a blockade to protect a runaway horse.

The Los Angeles Daily News reported California Highway Patrol officers said the horse was spotted at 3:08 p.m. Sunday on the westbound 210 Freeway in the northeast corner of the San

Fernando Valley.

California Highway Patrol Officer Elizabeth Kravig said the horse somehow made its way off the freeway and was last seen galloping down a side street.

Greeters welcome flying servicemen

NH PORTSMOUTH — A collective of retired veterans and local residents known as the "Pease Greeters" have welcomed their 1,500th flight to the Portsmouth International Airport at Pease.

The greeters were formed to help active military members feel appreciated before they head overseas or prepare to return home from the New Hampshire airport.

The group traces its lineage to 2005, when a plane carrying about 135 servicemen landed at Pease to refuel.

The greeters have evolved since a handful of people brought out coffee and doughnuts to that initial flight.

From wire reports

FACES



BY LYNN ELBER

Associated Press

James Corden brings a gleeful buoyancy to his CBS late-night show, whether he's bantering simultaneously with all his guests or dueting with stars as he drives.

But CBS' smoothly produced "The Late Late Show" suggests just how much Corden invests in his work, which was affirmed in a conversation amid preparations for the show's upcoming visit to Corden's native England. The show airs from there through June 21.

For starters, he described pingsponging between Los Angeles, where his show is based, New York to attend the premiere of "Ocean's 8" and London to do pre-taped elements. He discussed what "The Late Late Show" means to him and how much he puts into it, with the U.K. trip, an encore to last year's, an example. The shows are from London's Methodist Central Hall. Scheduled guests include Cher, Chris Pratt, Orlando Bloom, Damian Lewis, JJ Abrams and Niall Horan and the Foo Fighters. Paul McCartney joins Corden for a Carpool Karaoke segment, with Andrew Lloyd Webber in a new "Crosswalk the Musical."

In an Associated Press interview, Corden also refused

to cede ground on the political humor that infuses so much of late-night in the Donald Trump era, saying his show is as topical as any — in its own way.

Remarks have been edited for clarity and brevity.

You've described a hectic schedule but it sounds like you're having the time of your life.

How can I not? I'd just be so disappointed in myself if it came to a point where I was moaning about a thing. It's absurd. And you know you're either a moaner or you're not. And you either find stuff to moan about or you don't. I'm going to try not to. I might fail at that occasionally, but I don't think I can moan about having a film ("Ocean's 8") with Sandra Bullock. And a TV show which is bigger than I think anyone thought it could have a few years ago when it started.

Why did you decide to go back to London?

It's ambitious. It's a huge amount of effort to take the show to London for a week and try to mount this whole production in Central Hall. I also think that it's a massive undertaking on a (post-midnight) budget, and we always want to be ambitious and just make the best show for our audience.

What will viewers see that's different from the Los Angeles shows?

We have a "Crosswalk the Musical" shot in London,

we've got sketches and taped bits. And of course the venue will be vastly different because it's a 1,000-seat old church. It will look different and sound different, but at the core of it will be the show as we know it.

How do you make your humor serve the British audience and U.S. viewers?

We're going to try and make a show that will satisfy both the room and the audience at home. Predominantly, our aim is to make a show for America. That's what we really want. I think (the British audience) will be with us. A joke's a joke, you know.

Although Trump-era political humor is key in late-night, have you made it less a part of your show because you're British?

It's not that it's less a part. We talk about politics every night on the show. I just don't want it to be the only part, and I don't think our audience does either. So every day, our monologue is somehow dominated by President Trump. What we often try to do is think, "What is our show's way of tackling it?" So, for example, when the president announces his what I consider to be abhorrent ban on transgenders in the military, we think, "What is our show's way of dealing with it, rather than just talking about it?" And that's how you come up with a LGBT song rewritten to Nat King Cole's "Love."

James Corden — host of the 60th annual Grammy Awards — has taken his show to London. "The Late Late Show" airs on AFN-Prime. MATT SAYLE, INVISION/AP

On a big night for 'Panther,' Boseman honors real-life hero

From wire reports

The MTV Movie & TV Awards gave "Black Panther" its first taste of awards glory, with Marvel's blockbuster taking home four honors including two awards for its star, Chadwick Boseman.

Boseman quickly handed off his best hero award to James Shaw Jr., who wrestled an assault-style rifle away from a gunman in a Tennessee Waffle House in April. "This is going to live at your house," Boseman told Shaw, giving him the show's golden popcorn award.

The actor said while it was an honor to be recognized for playing a superhero, it was more important to "acknowledge the heroes we have in real life." Boseman, who starred as T'Challa in "Black Panther," also won the award for best performance in a movie. Michael B. Jordan, who played the villain Erik Killmonger, won best villain.

"Stranger Things" was the top television honoree, winning four awards including a repeat win for best show.

The awards were handed out June 16 and broadcast in the U.S. on Monday night.

The show is known for bringing fresh talent to light, as well as acknowledging established celebrities in more quirky categories like best kiss and most frightened performance. Host Tiffany Haddish donned a variety of costumes throughout the ceremony, including nods to classic film and TV roles such as Holly Golightly from "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and Starlet

from "The Carol Burnett Show."

She kicked off the show with a "Black Panther" skit, foreshadowing the film's big night, noting in her opening monologue that it is the first African-American film to earn more than \$1 billion at the box office. Haddish, who also won an award for her breakthrough role in "Girls Trip," noted that she is the first black woman to host the awards show, which is its 27th year.

The gay teen comedy "Love, Simon" won for best kiss for a scene between Nick Robinson and Keiynan Lonsdale.

Deputies search for suspects in rapper's slaying

Deputies were searching for suspects Tuesday after rapper-singer XXXTentacion was fatally shot in Florida in the driver's seat of a luxury electric sports car.

The 20-year-old rising star, who pronounced his stage name "Ex Ex En-te-saa-YAWN" and whose real name is Jahseh Dwayne Onfroy, was pronounced dead Monday evening at a Fort Lauderdale-area hospital, the Broward Sheriff's Office said. He was shot earlier outside a Deerfield Beach motorcycle dealership.

XXXTentacion had been at RIVA Motorsports checking out inventory when he was approached by two armed suspects as he prepared to drive off in a black BMW i8 at about 4 p.m., sheriff's public information officer Keyla Concepcion said. At least one

of them fired, and then both suspects fled the scene in a dark SUV, Concepcion said.

A sheriff's office statement described the shooting as an apparent robbery attempt. No immediate arrests were made.

On Twitter, his peers expressed shock and sadness. Kanya West said: "rest in peace ... I never told you how much you inspired me when you were here thank you for existing." Producer Diplo posted a photo of the two together and said, "Thanks for inspiring me." Travis Barker tweeted: "I'm at a loss for words... speechless #RIPTXXXTentacion Loved collaborating with you. You were a true artist ..."

The entertainer notched a No. 1 album in March with his sophomore effort "?" and had a top 10 hit with "Sad!" but was facing trial on charges that he beat up his pregnant girlfriend.

Other news

■ Bruce Springsteen helped rock a refurbished 1960s bowling alley-turned music venue near the Asbury Park, N.J., boardwalk. Actor Hugh Jackman was in the house at the Asbury Lanes on Monday night as Springsteen jammed for about 30 minutes with Tangiers Blues Band.

■ AMC has pulled "Talking With Chris Hardwick" from its schedule amid sexual misconduct allegations against the ubiquitous TV host and founder of digital entertainment network Nerdist. Actress and model Chloe Dykstra said in a Medium



MATT SAYLES, INVISION/AP

Chadwick Boseman, left, gives his best hero award for his role in "Black Panther" to James Shaw Jr., at the MTV Movie & TV Awards in California on June 16. Shaw is credited with saving lives during a shooting at a Waffle House in Antioch, Tenn.

post published June 14 that she had been emotionally abused and sexually assaulted by a former long-term boyfriend. Dykstra did not name her alleged abuser, but the alleged three-year timeline and other details in the essay led people to speculate that it was the "Talking" host. Hardwick strongly denied Dykstra's account.

■ Actress Heather Locklear was reportedly hospitalized Sunday after a concerned family member told police she was on the hunt for a gun to hurt herself. The "Melrose Place" star, 56, was taken to a hospital for a psych evaluation after deputies responded to a call from her California residence, TMZ reports.

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market



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BUSINESS/WEATHER

Trump threatens more tariffs against China

By JEFF KAROUR
AND ZEKE MILLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump directed the U.S. Trade Representative to prepare new tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports Monday as the two nations moved closer to a potential trade war.

China on Tuesday threatened "comprehensive measures" in response to the new tariff increase, raising the possibility Beijing might target operations of American companies.

The U.S. tariffs, which Trump wants set at a 10 percent rate, would be the latest round of punitive measures in an escalating dispute over the large trade imbalance between the two countries. Trump recently ordered tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods in retaliation for intellectual property theft. The tariffs were quickly matched by China on U.S. exports, a move that drew the president's ire.

"China apparently has no intention of changing its unfair practices related to the acquisition of American intellectual property and technology," Trump said in a statement Monday announcing the new action. "Rather than altering those practices, it is now threatening United States companies, workers and farmers who have done nothing wrong."

Trump added, "These tariffs will go into effect if China refuses to change its practices, and also if it insists on going forward with the new tariffs that it has recently announced."

China's Commerce Ministry on Tuesday criticized the latest threat of tariffs, saying it was an "act of extreme pressure and blackmail that deviates from the



THOMAS PETER/AP

President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping arrive for a state dinner Nov. 17 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Trump is calling for new tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports.

If the U.S. becomes irrational and issues this list, China will have no choice but to adopt strong countermeasures of the same amount and quality.

Chinese Commerce Ministry statement

consensus reached by both parties after many negotiations, and is a disappointment to the international community."

"If the U.S. becomes irrational and issues this list, China will have no choice but to adopt strong countermeasures of the same amount and quality," the ministry

stated.

Trump said that if China responds to this fresh round of tariffs, then he will move to counter "by pursuing additional tariffs on another \$200 billion of goods."

The first round of penalties announced by both nations is set to take effect July 6.

The intellectual property sanctions were the latest in a spate of protectionist measures unveiled by Trump in recent months that included tariffs on steel and aluminum imports to the U.S. and a tough rhetoric on trade negotiations from North America to Asia.

The escalation in the dispute with China may also serve as a warning to other trading partners with whom Trump has been feuding, including Canada and the European Union.

The move quickly drew praise from former Trump senior adviser Steve Bannon, who told

The Associated Press, "President Trump told China and the world tonight that America will not back down when it comes to economic aggression."

Wall Street has viewed the escalating trade tensions with wariness, fearful they could strangle the economic growth achieved during Trump's watch. Gary Cohn, Trump's former top economic adviser, said last week that a "tariff battle" could result in price inflation and consumer debt "historic ingredients for an economic slowdown."

Trump's comments came hours after the top U.S. diplomat accused China of engaging in "predatory economics 101" and an "unprecedented level of largesse" of intellectual property.

Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made the remarks at the Detroit Economic Club as global markets reacted to trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

He said China's recent claims of "openness and globalization" are "a joke." He added that China is a "predatory economic government" that is "long overdue in being tackled" on matters that include IP theft and Chinese steel and aluminum flooding the U.S. market.

"Just ask yourself, would China have allowed America to do to it what China has done to America?" he said later. "This is predatory economics 101."

Asked to comment on Pompeo's remarks, the Chinese Foreign Ministry in Beijing said in a regular briefing with reporters that the U.S. had lost credibility as a free trader.

"We don't want a trade war, but we're not afraid of a trade war," ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said.

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (June 20)	\$1.1858
Dollar buys (June 20)	€0.8433
British pound	108.35
Japanese yen (June 20)	108.00
South Korean won (June 20)	1,076.60

Commercial rates

Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3779
British pound	1.3167
Canadian dollar	0.77
China (Yuan)	6.4817
Denmark (Krone)	6.4466
Egypt (Pound)	1.26
French franc	1.1561 / 0.8650
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8493
Iceland (Icelandic króna)	278.55
Israel (Shekel)	3.5392
Japan (Yen)	109.87
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3598
Lithuania (Litas)	3.0245
Malta (Euro)	0.8598
Philippines (Peso)	53.39
Pakistan (Pakistani rupee)	3.72
Palestinian (Pound)	3.7520
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3584
South Korea (Won)	1,447.27
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9845
Thailand (Baht)	32.80
Turkey (Lira)	4.4744

Note: Exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds with dollars) or rates at nonlocal military banking facility, commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference only. These rates are converted from foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

MARKET WATCH

June 18, 2018

Dow Jones industrials	-103.01
	24,987.47
Nasdaq composite	0.65
	7,747.02
Standard & Poor's 500	-5.91
	2,773.75
Russell 2000	8.55
	1,692.46

INTEREST RATES

Prime	5.00
Discount rate	2.50
Federal funds market rate	1.90
3-month bill	1.90
30-year bond	3.05

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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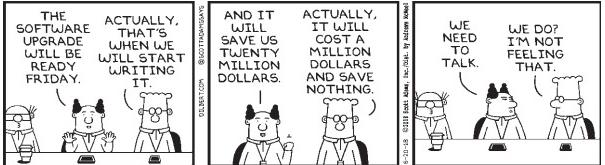
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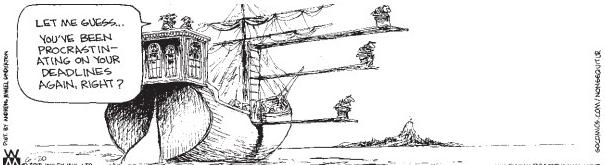
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



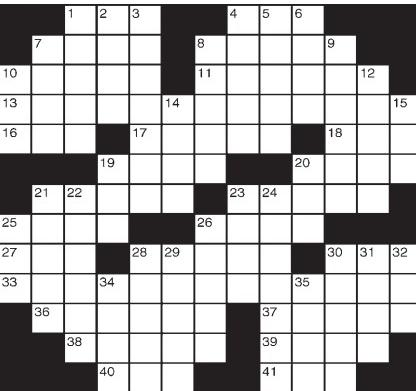
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro

**Eugene Sheffer Crossword****ACROSS**

- 3 Cutting tooth
4 Doldrums
4 A/C stat
5 Weights of empty shipping containers
6 Hoedown site
8 Warning sound
10 Funnel-shaped
11 Aerobic workout, briefly
13 1968 Beatles hit
16 Compass dir.
17 Grinch creator
18 Nevertheless, briefly
19 RN's workplace
20 Borscht veggie
21 Masts
23 Actress Linney
25 Guitarist Atkins
26 Tropical tree
27 Hockey's Bobby
28 Belted area
30 Way of
31 1978 Kansas hit
32 Legendary loch
33 Florentine artist
34 Redact
35 Decay
36 Fez, e.g.
37 Vagrant
38 Milos of "The Verdict"
39 Greenhouse humidifier
40 Scorpion network
41 Night watch

Answer to Previous Puzzle

G	U	F		G	A	B	L	U	S	T	
O	P	I	E	E	L	I	I	S	L	A	
A	D	D	S	T	O	O	D	L	E	O	O
T	O	O	S	I	S	I	E	O	A	S	E
T	O	O	S	I	E	O	A	S	E		T
E	A	T	C	D	C						
F	E	R	R	T	O	O	S	L	W	O	
A	G	O		P	I	N	E	R	E		
T	O	O	C	O	O	E	D	I	C	T	
C	A	L	P	R	N	A					
S	C	A	L	D	T	O	K	O	U	T	
T	O	O	L	S	H	E	M	I	N		
O	O	S	H	E	D	M	N	N			
L	O	O	E	N	E	N	O	O			
O	O	S	H	E	D	M	N	N			

DOWN

- 1 Jousting weapon
2 Composer Satie

6-20

W H N K V B C T B M T - U J H B R M ,
V D G B G Q R L G K B R N D Y Q
W H C Q X E G T Q Y Q J X X G T Q
G B W Q . B ' W U J B R E D X X H
Q W U X K H Q L .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN ACTRESS ALLEY HAS HAD NOTHING TO DRINK ALL DAY LONG, WOULD YOU CALL HER THIRSTY KIRSTIE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals J

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Be aware of the common red flags.

Some of the latest Scam fads are:

■ Vehicle buyers wanting to buy sight unseen and have the vehicle shipped through an agent using PayPal.

■ People saying Free Dog (different breeds) for adoption.

Automotive 140

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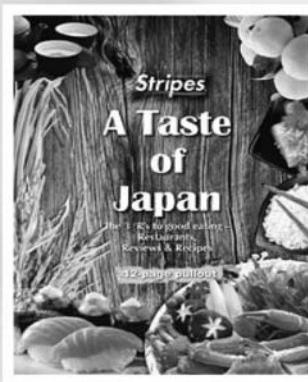
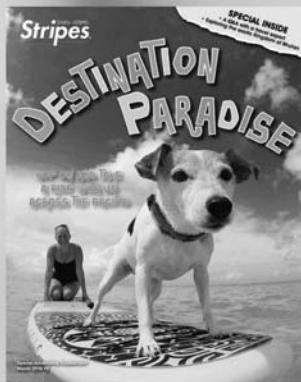


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Pro hockey

NHL Draft order

Friday, June 22
At American Centers, Dallas
First Round

1. Buffalo
2. Carolina
3. Montreal
4. Ottawa
5. Arizona
6. Boston
7. Vancouver
8. Chicago
9. Minnesota
10. Edmonton
11. New Jersey
12. NY Islanders (from Calgary)
13. Dallas
14. St. Louis (from St. Louis)
15. Florida
16. Colorado
17. New Jersey
18. Columbus
19. Philadelphia
20. Detroit
21. San Jose
22. Ottawa (from Pittsburgh)
23. Tampa Bay
24. Minnesota
25. Toronto
26. NY Rangers (from Boston)
27. Chicago (from Nashville)
28. NY Rangers (from Tampa Bay)
29. Atlanta (from Winnipeg)
30. Detroit (from Vegas)
31. Washington

College baseball

College World Series

At TD Ameritrade Park Omaha
Omaha, Neb.
(Double Elimination)
June 14-June 27

North Carolina 8, Oregon State 6
Mississippi State 1, Washington 0

Arkansas 11, Texas 5
Texas Tech 6, Florida 3

Oregon State 14, Washington 5, Washington eliminated
Georgia Tech (44-18) vs. Mississippi State (38-27), pvt., weather

Tuesday, June 19
Game 6 — Georgia Tech (44-18) vs. Mississippi State (38-27)

Game 7 — Texas (42-22), vs. Florida (47-20)

Game 8 — Arkansas (45-19) vs. Texas Tech (45-18)

Wednesday, June 20

Game 9 — Oregon State (50-11) vs. Game 6 loser

Thursday, June 21

Game 10 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 8 loser

Friday, June 22

Game 11 — Game 6 winner vs. Game 9 winner

Game 12 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner

Championship Series

Game 13 — Game 7 winner vs. Game 9 winner

Game 14 — Game 8 winner vs. Game 10 winner

X-game 13 — Game 6 winner vs. Game 8 winner

X-game 14 — Game 9 winner vs. Game 10 winner

Monday, June 25: Pairings TBD

Tuesday, June 26: Pairings TBD

x-Wednesday, June 27: Pairings TBD

Golf

Ryder Cup points

Le Golf National

Guyancourt, France

Sept. 1-30

Through June 17

United States

1. Brooks Koepka

2. Dustin Johnson

3. Patrick Reed

4. Justin Thomas

5. Jon Rahm

6. Rickie Fowler

7. Webb Simpson

8. Bryson DeChambeau

9. Jordan Spieth

10. Matt Kuchar

11. Brian Harman

12. Tony Finau

13. Xander Schauffele

14. Aaron Wise

Europe

European Points

1. Tyrrell Hatton

2. Tommy Fleetwood

3. Francesco Molinari

4. Rory McIlroy

5. Jon Rahm

6. Brooks Koepka

7. Rickie Fowler

8. Jordan Spieth

9. Webb Simpson

10. Tony Finau

11. Patrick Reed

12. Jordan Spieth

13. Xander Schauffele

14. Aaron Wise

15. Jon Rahm

16. Brooks Koepka

17. Dustin Johnson

18. Rickie Fowler

19. Francesco Molinari

20. Tony Finau

21. Jordan Spieth

22. Xander Schauffele

23. Aaron Wise

24. Tommy Fleetwood

25. Francesco Molinari

26. Brooks Koepka

27. Rickie Fowler

28. Jordan Spieth

29. Xander Schauffele

30. Aaron Wise

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33. Tommy Fleetwood

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149. Jordan Spieth

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151. Aaron Wise

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153. Francesco Molinari

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212. Jordan Spieth

213. Xander Schauffele

214. Aaron Wise

215. Tommy Fleetwood

216. Francesco Molinari

217. Brooks Koepka

218. Rickie Fowler

219. Jordan Spieth

220. Xander Schauffele

NHL/COLLEGE WORLD SERIES/SPORTS BRIEFS

Capitals' Trotz resigns

Team, coach couldn't agree on contract extension

By STEPHEN WHYNO

Associated Press

Less than two weeks after lifting the Stanley Cup, Barry Trotz is a free agent and the Washington Capitals are looking for a new coach.

Trotz stepped down as Capitals coach on Monday after a contract dispute over salary and term that leaves the newly minted Stanley Cup champions without a coach with the draft and free agency fast approaching. General manager Brian MacLellan said the Capitals accepted Trotz's resignation after they were unable to agree on terms with a new contract.

Winning the Cup less than two weeks ago triggered a two-year extension for Trotz that would have given him a slight bump in salary to just over \$2 million, a person with direct knowledge of the situation told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the team did not announce the extension.

"His representative wants to take advantage of Barry's experience and Stanley Cup win and was trying to negotiate a deal that compensates him as one of the better coaches in the league, top four or five coaches," MacLellan said at a news conference in Arlington, Va. "I think the five-year term is probably a sticking point. You have a coach that's been here four years, you do another five, that's nine years. There's not many coaches that have that lasting ability. It's a long time and it's a lot of money to be committing to a coach."

Toronto's Mike Babcock makes the most at \$6.25 million on an eight-year deal after coaching Detroit for 10 seasons. Chicago's Joel Quenneville is next at \$6 million entering his ninth full season with the Blackhawks and Montreal's Claude Julien brings in \$5 million after coaching Boston for nine-plus seasons. All three have won the Cup like Trotz, including Quenneville three times.

If Trotz was paid among the top five, it would have put him in the \$4 million-plus range annually — a price the Capitals have not been willing to pay for coaches.

"After careful consideration and consultation with my family, I am officially announcing my resignation," Trotz said. "When I came to Washington four years ago we had one goal in mind and that was to bring the Stanley Cup to the nation's capital. We had an incredible run this season culminating with our players and staff achieving our goal and sharing the excitement with our fans."

The 55-year-old Trotz went into the season with an uncertain future after ownership and MacLellan declined to talk about a contract extension last summer after back-to-back Presidents' Trophy-winning seasons that ended with second-round exits.

"We were struggling at the time to get over the hump," MacLellan said. "We couldn't get out of the second round and Barry hadn't



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Washington Capitals head coach Barry Trotz resigned Monday less than two weeks after guiding the Capitals to their first Stanley Cup. Trotz and the Capitals failed to agree on a contract extension.

been able to coach out of the second round yet, either. I think from the organization's perspective, some changes would've had to be made if we lost in the second round again."

That didn't happen as a relaxed Trotz played a vital role in Washington's first title in franchise history. He survived a rough start to the season and other struggles before he and the team found a stride in the playoffs.

After the Capitals accepted his resignation, Trotz will be an intriguing figure on the coaching

market.

Only the New York Islanders have a current coaching vacancy, though given Trotz's success in Nashville and Washington, other teams might consider making a move to hire him. Trotz has the fifth-most victories in NHL history and has guided a team to the playoffs in 11 of his 19 seasons. He is 762-568-60-134 overall with the Predators and Capitals, and he won 205 of his 328 regular-season games (63 percent) since taking over as Washington's coach in 2014.

Beavers roll over Huskies

By ERIC OLSON

Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Oregon State kept things loose in the clubhouse during a weather delay that stretched to 4½ hours at the College World Series. Reserve outfielder Joe Casey entertained teammates by stuffing 30 pieces of gum into his mouth, a party game known as "Mafia" broke out and the tunes were cranked up.

When it was time to return to the field, the Beavers were all business.

Kyle Nohack hit a three-run homer to put Oregon State in control in the seventh inning, Kevin Abel pitched four strong innings of relief and Oregon State sent Pac-12 rival Washington home from the College World Series with a 14-5 win on Monday night.

"Crazy game, Long day," Beavers coach Pat Casey said. "I thought our guys came out really prepared after the rain delay. We were kind of scuffling out of the chute. Really appreciate the way they hung with it and got them selves a win."

The Beavers erased early deficits, starting their comeback just before the teams were pulled off the field because of lightning near TD Ameritrade Park. Before play resumed, star second baseman Nick Madrigal gave a talk to em-



NAT HARNIK/AP

Oregon State pitcher Kevin Abel, right, is congratulated by catcher Adley Rutschman after Abel stuck out Washington designated hitter Joe Wainhouse to end the seventh inning of Monday's College World Series elimination game in Omaha, Neb. Oregon State won 14-5.

phasize the stakes.

"It's win or go home at this point, and there are a lot of guys that will never put this uniform on again," Nohack said. "It means a lot to us, and a lot of people don't really understand it until you play here and you're around 'Case' and this program. That's what his message was, just to strictly compete."

Oregon State (50-11), the No. 3 national seed, was coming off a loss to North Carolina in its CWS opener and still must win three

more games to reach the best-of-three final. Washington (35-26) went two games and out in its first CWS.

"A lot of people expected us to roll over halfway through the season," Huskies shortstop Levi Jordan said. "Instead, we went the other direction and brought this program to its first College World Series. To hang our heads about our performance in the College World Series... it shouldn't be a reflection of our season. Obviously, a tough loss. But the program is moving in a great direction."

Briefly

Hoffman traded twice, ends up with Panthers

Associated Press

SUNRISE, Fla. — The Florida Panthers acquired Mike Hoffman from San Jose hours after the Sharks got the scoring winger from the Ottawa Senators.

Florida sent 2014 fourth- and fifth-round picks and a 2019 second-round pick to San Jose for Hoffman and a 2018 seventh-round pick. General manager Dale Tallon announced the trade Tuesday, not long after Ottawa moved him to San Jose.

In Hoffman, the Panthers get a scoring winger at a bargain-baseball price. The Senators were eager to deal him amid a dispute between him and his fiancee and Senators captain Erik Karlsson and his wife. Melinda Karlsson filed an order of protection against Hoffman's fiancee, alleging harassment and cyberbullying.

The Sharks initially acquired Hoffman, defensive prospect Cody Donaghey and a 2020 fifth-round pick from the Senators for forward Mikkel Boedker, defensive prospect Julie Bergman and a 2020 sixth-round pick.

Neymar leaves practice session limping

SOCHI, Russia — Neymar limped out of Brazil's training session at the World Cup on Tuesday because of pain in his right ankle.

The Brazilian soccer confed-

eration said the injury was not serious, adding Neymar left as a precaution and would be back in training on Wednesday.

The federation said Neymar has been in pain since the team's 1-1 draw against Switzerland on Friday.

Neymar started practicing with the rest of the squad but left accompanied by a doctor about 30 minutes into the session in Sochi.

He had been playing keep-away with a few other players when he started showing signs of discomfort in his ankle.

Browns sign former No. 2 pick Robinson

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns signed offensive lineman Greg Robinson, a 2014 first-round draft pick with the Rams.

The 6-foot-5, 330-pound Robinson was the No. 2 overall pick that year out of Auburn. Robinson failed to live up to expectations with Los Angeles and was traded to Detroit before last season for a sixth-round pick.

Robinson started six games for the Lions before suffering a season-ending ankle injury.

He's getting another chance with the Browns, who are looking to replace 10-time Pro Bowl tackle Joe Thomas and need to add depth up front. Thomas retired during the offseason.

MLB

Fast: Aces embrace move to offspeed

FROM BACK PAGE

So it was time to change things up.

From 2013-17, Cole threw his fastball 65 percent of the time — well above the league average. But this year, he's cut that fastball rate by about 10 points, replacing those heaters with sliders and curveballs. The new look is working. Cole is 8-1 with a 2.54 ERA through 15 starts and leads the American League with 138 strikeouts.

"I think you're just continually trying to mess things up, especially when guys are trying to slug," Cole said. "When they're trying to hit it out of the park every time, you have an easier time changing speeds."

Kluber and Kershaw have made similar adjustments in the past couple of years. Both Cy Young winners rank among the league leaders in fewest fastballs thrown this season.

"Guys are geared up to swing for a fastball," Kluber said. "I guess it's almost rare now to see somebody actually, like, go the other way with the breaking ball."

Kluber has set a career low with a fastball rate of 41.8 percent this season. Same for Kershaw, who has dropped from a 72-percent fastball clip in 2010 all the way to 42.8 percent in an injury-hampered 2018.

"The hitters tell you what you need to do," Kershaw said. "And for me, I guess it's been throwing a lot more breaking balls."

Cole, Kluber and Kershaw suspect the tide will turn back, perhaps soon, once hitters recalibrate to the number of four-seam fastball pitchers they are throwing up in the strike zone.

But Trevor Bauer, Kluber's analytically minded teammate in Cleveland, thinks the offspeed uptick is only going to spread.

Two years ago, Bauer and Indians closer Cody Allen watched as 6-foot-8 Yankees fireballer Dellin Betances carved up Cleveland's hitters with a fastball that averaged 98 mph. Allen — no slouch himself with a fastball around 94 mph — told Bauer that if he could throw hard like Betances,



JAE C. HONG/AP

Dodgers starting pitcher Clayton Kershaw ranks among league leaders in fewest fastballs thrown this season. Pitchers are turning to more offspeed throws and finding greater success.

he wouldn't even bother with a breaking ball.

"No," Bauer recalled telling Allen. "He should never throw a fastball."

Bauer's theory is that the threat of a 100 mph fastball might be more dangerous to hitters than the fastballs themselves.

"As guys throw harder, guys have less and less time to hit that offering," Bauer said. "So they have to speed up in order to catch up to it, which, that makes the breaking ball more effective."

Hitters are left picking between two nasty poisons — risk being behind on triple-digit fastball, or jeopardize taking ugly swings or breaking pitches as they dart out of the strike zone.

Veteran slugger Todd Frazier was with the Yankees last year when New York's hard-throwing bullpen led by Betances, Aroldis Chapman and Chad Green overpowered hitters while also posting the lowest fastball rate in the majors.

"I have to set my feet for 98 mph, and understand I might get 84-88 mph slider," said Frazier, now with the New York Mets. "It makes it tougher on you."

And yet, Frazier and his fellow hitters aren't close to jumping off their fastball-first approach.

"The baseline of hitting is the fastball," Mets teammate Jay Bruce said. "You have to stay on the fastball. For me personally, that's what my timing of the bat works off of."

Bauer has hypothesized for years that as velocities climb, pitchers may benefit from throwing fewer fastballs, but he didn't fully embrace the shift himself until this year. After a 2017 post-season in which Houston's Lance McCullers Jr. (40 percent fastball rate in 2017) and the Yankees'

Masahiro Tanaka (26.4 percent) thrived with low fastball rates, Bauer has finally followed suit.

It's no coincidence to him that he's having the best season of his life.

Bauer has thrown his four- and two-seam fastballs less than 40 percent of the time this year — about a 10-point drop from his career average — and filled that gap mostly with sliders. He's baffling hitters like never before, ranking among the league leaders with a 2.50 ERA and 129 strikeouts — second only to Cole in the AL.

That 40-percent clip puts Bauer among the most infrequent fastball throwers, but he thinks the rest of the league may soon catch up by slowing down. Since pitch-type data was first recorded in 2002, the rate of four- and two-seam fastballs has shrunk steadily from 64.4 percent to 55.4 percent, according to data logged by Fangraphs. Meanwhile, average fastball velocity has risen from 89 mph to 92.6.

If the heat keeps getting hotter, Bauer thinks pitchers will cool it further on the fastballs. After all, other hurlers are going to notice the success that Cole and Bauer — former UCLA teammates — are having with the adjustment this season. Bauer suspects the league-wide fastball rate could drop as low as 40-45 percent before hitters finally adjust.

"You trap the hitters, basically, if you take that approach," Bauer said.

What do the hitters make of all that?

"Everybody can hit 98," is what they're saying," Frazier said. "But that isn't necessarily true. It's very hard to hit 98 with movement. I think sometimes pitchers overthink things."

Kershaw aims for return to Dodgers

BY JAY COHEN
Associated Press

CHICAGO — The last time Clayton Kershaw pitched at Wrigley Field, the ace left-hander helped lead the Los Angeles Dodgers into the World Series.

It was a much different situation Monday. But still important for the Dodgers.

Kershaw threw a three-inning simulated game before Los Angeles' series opener against the Chicago Cubs was postponed, taking another step forward in his recovery from a strained lower back. The three-time NL Cy Young Award winner said he felt really good and plans to pitch somewhere in four or five days, either in a minor league rehab start or for the Dodgers.

"It was good, very encouraged," manager Dave Roberts said. "Just the way that the ball was coming out today, the command of the fastball as good as it's been for me — and obviously this setting is not a major league game — but for me the best it's been in a month, for sure."

The 30-year-old Kershaw was sidelined for nearly a month with left biceps tendinitis before returning May 31 against Philadelphia. He tossed five effective innings in a no-decision against the Phillies, and then went back on the disabled list the next day with the back injury.

The Dodgers said over the weekend that Kershaw was headed for a simulated game Tuesday or Wednesday — in Los Angeles. But Kershaw said that was just one of the plans in the mix.

"I knew it was probably going to be here," he said. "It's just more of a logistical thing. It's just harder to do in L.A. Nobody's there when you go on the road."

"It's just when you have hitters in there it's good to see some, even though it's a sim game at least you have them reacting. It was a little bit better today."

The trip brought Kershaw back to one of the best moments of his outstanding career, a crisp six

innings in an 11-1 victory over Chicago in Game 5 of the NL Championship Series last October — sending Los Angeles to the World Series for the first time since 1988. The Dodgers then lost to the Astros in seven games for the title.

He also was greeted by some Los Angeles-like weather, with temperatures in the mid-90s on a steamy day in the Midwest.

"It was hot," he said. "It was good, let me get loose."

Kershaw is 1-4 with a 2.76 ERA in just eight starts this year for Los Angeles, which has been riddled by injuries. He missed about five weeks last season with a similar back injury.

While Roberts left open the possibility Kershaw could return this weekend against the Mets, he said the organization was leaning toward a rehab start, likely with Triple-A Oklahoma City.

"You look at how much he's pitched over the last two months and it hasn't been a whole lot," he said. "So to see it in real competition, obviously that makes a lot of sense."

Los Angeles had won five of six heading into the three-game set with Chicago. The opener was postponed because of rain and a limited power outage at Wrigley, creating a day-night doubleheader on Tuesday.

The Dodgers have more help than the way just than Kershaw.

Rich Hill is slated to start Tuesday night in his first major league game since May 19. The veteran left-hander has been sidelined by a blister on his left middle finger.

Infielder Chase Utley, who has been sidelined by a left thumb sprain, is expected to come off the DL on Tuesday or Wednesday. Rookie right-hander Walker Buehler, one of baseball's top pitching prospects, is scheduled for a bullpen session Saturday in New York, continuing his comeback from a right rib microfracture.

"From that point on we'll have a little more information and figure out how aggressive we'll want to be with him," Roberts said.

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MLB

Astros rally in ninth to win 12th straight

Bregman's walk-off double helps Houston tie franchise-record mark

By KRISTIE RIEKEN
Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jose Altuve upped the pressure on Alex Bregman as he walked to home plate with the bases loaded and one out in the bottom of the ninth inning. "Altuve told me ... that he's not bringing his bat or batting gloves to the on-deck circle, so I better get the job done," Bregman said. "So I had to find a way."

Bregman hit a game-ending two-run double and the Houston Astros beat the Tampa Bay Rays 5-4 to match a franchise record with their 12th straight win.

Houston trailed 4-0 after three innings but cut the lead to one entering the ninth.

Sergio Romo (1-2) walked Martin Gonzalez to start the ninth, then allowed a single to Max Stassi. Tony Kemp's sacrifice bunt moved both runners up, and Houston loaded the bases when George Springer reached on interference by catcher Wilson Ramos.

Bregman then drove a ball that bounded off the wall in left-center. He lifted both arms as he trotted into second base, and teammates mobbed him in the infield.

It was Houston's second game-ending hit of the season, and the other also came off Bregman's bat April 7 against San Diego. Bregman also walked off Houston with a single in Game 5 of the World Series last season.

"You do it as often as Alex has done it, we know it's going to be a good at-bat," manager A.J. Hinch said. "Whether it ends in our favor or not is baseball, but he's a guy we want up there."

Romo declined to speak to reporters after the game, but manager Kevin Cash discussed his work.

"He's the guy who's been out there and got the experience," Cash said. "He's done it here as of late. It lined up right; it just didn't work."

Collin McHugh (2-0) struck out two in a scoreless ninth for the win on a night Gerrit Cole walked a career-high five to help the Rays build the early lead.

Houston also won 12 straight in 2014 and 1999.

"The only thing that matters to these guys is winning," Bregman said.

Romo was the seventh pitcher the Rays used as they employed a reliever as a starter for the 16th time in 30 games.

Cole walked Jake Bauers with one out in the first before Ramos launched a fastball into the seats in right field to give Tampa Bay a 2-0 lead.

Matt Duffy drew a walk with one out in the third, stole second base and took third on an error by catcher Brian McCann. Cole, who hadn't walked more than three in a game this season, walked Bauers and Ramos to load the bases.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

The Astros' Alex Bregman, center, celebrates with teammates after hitting a game-winning double to score two runs against the Tampa Bay Rays during the ninth inning of Monday's game in Houston.

A two-out single by Joey Wendle came next to score two and push the lead to 4-0.

Altuve, who finished with three hits, singled with one out in the fourth, and Carlos Correa followed with a double. Houston got

within 4-1 on a groundball single by Yuli Gurriel which scored Altuve. The Astros made it 4-2 when Correa scored on a sacrifice fly by Josh Reddick.

Altuve doubled and reached third on an error by Johnny Field

to start Houston's sixth. A one-out single by Gurriel scored Altuve to cut the lead to 4-3. Gonzalez singled with two outs, but Diego Castillo came in and retired pinch-hitter Evan Gattis to end the inning.

Roundup

Yankees salvage split on Hicks' two-run homer

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Aaron Hicks' go-ahead two-run homer sparked chants of "Let's go, Yankees!" on the road and helped New York beat Washington 4-2 in the second game of an unusual semi-doubleheader Monday, after pinch-hitter Juan Soto's tie-breaking two-run shot for the Nationals won the opener 5-3.

These games originally were scheduled more than a month ago, and Game 1 resumed after being suspended because of rain in the middle of the sixth — so technically, Soto managed to homer in a game played before he made his major league debut.

Hicks? The 19-year-old Soto was called up from the minors for the first time five days after Game 1 started on May 15; it picked back up at 3-all and the Nationals about to bat in the bottom of the sixth. After Bryce Harper — who had a full beard back on May 15, when the game began, but was clean-shaven this time — struck



NICK WASS/AP

The New York Yankees' Didi Gregorius, bottom, is tagged out by Nationals second baseman Wilmer Difo while trying to steal second during the fifth inning of the second game Monday in Washington.

out, and Anthony Rendon singled, Soto drove a 97 mph fastball from Chad Green (4-1) to the back of

the second deck in right field.

"I thought he had a good chance to hit the ball hard," Nationals

manager Dave Martinez said. "That was hard."

It was Soto's sixth homer since he was brought up from Double-A Harrisburg on May 20 — and second against the Yankees. Soto stood and admired this one before beginning his trot around the bases.

"A pitch right in his hot zone. Soto got us again," Yankees manager Aaron Boone said. "Obviously, a really good-looking player. Two pretty big shots he's hit against us."

Rangers 6, Royals 3: Bartolo Colon (4-4) earned his 24th win, passing Hall of Famer Juan Marichal for the most by a pitcher born in the Dominican Republic, and visiting Texas beat skidding Kansas City.

Indians 6, White Sox 2: Trevor Bauer (6-5) pitched seven shutout innings before a rain delay ended his night, and Jason Kipnis homered to lead host Cleveland over sliding and sloppy Chicago.

Mets 12, Rockies 2: Brandon Nimmo homered twice during a huge night at the plate, including

an inside-the-park shot to begin the game, and visiting New York finally gave Jacob deGrom some run support in a victory over Colorado.

Phillies 6, Cardinals 5 (10): Left fielder Marcell Ozuna dived for and missed Aaron Altherr's two-run double with two outs in the 10th inning, allowing host Philadelphia to rally past St. Louis.

Pirates 1, Brewers 0: Trevor Williams (6-4) pitched one-hit ball over seven innings and two Pittsburgh relievers closed out a two-hitter against visiting Milwaukee.

Diamondbacks 7, Angels 4: Paul Goldschmidt hit an early two-run homer and Zack Greinke (6-5) pitched seven-hit ball into the seventh inning of visiting Arizona's 12th victory in 16 games.

Marlins 5, Giants 4: Miguel Rojas followed Lewis Brinson's RBI single with a go-ahead base hit as visiting Miami rallied in the ninth inning and overcame an early four-run deficit to beat San Francisco.

WORLD CUP

Messi running out of time to deliver

Russia could be Argentinian star's last Cup

BY STEPHEN WADE
Associated Press

NIZHNY NOVGOROD, Russia — Time is running out for Lionel Messi to bring Argentina a World Cup, which would give him the one thing that's missing from a career that ranks among the greatest.

He turns 31 on Sunday, which means this World Cup could be his last chance. It also means that Thursday's match against Croatia is momentous. He has delivered for his club Barcelona — four Champions League titles, and nine La Liga championships in Spain — but still no major title for Argentina.

Messi missed a penalty — it was saved — in a disappointing 1-1 draw against Iceland in the opening group match. Argentina needs to beat Croatia to clear its path from the three-game group stage to the knockout round of 16.

"We have to look at what we need to correct from the Iceland match, but we can't dwell on it," Argentina defender Gabriel Mercado said. "We have to look forward and win the next match against Croatia."

WORLD CUP

Scoreboard

First round

	GROUP A						GROUP E					
	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Russia	1	0	0	1	5	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Uruguay	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	1	0	1	1	1
Egypt	0	1	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	1	1
Saudi Arabia	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0

Thursday, June 14

At St. Petersburg, Russia

Russia 5, Saudi Arabia 0

Friday, June 15

At Volgograd, Russia

Uruguay 1, Egypt 0

Tuesday, June 19

At St. Petersburg, Russia

Russia vs. Egypt

Wednesday, June 20

At Ekaterinburg, Russia

Uruguay vs. Saudi Arabia

Monday, June 25

At Kazan, Russia

Uruguay vs. Russia

At Volgograd, Russia

Saudi Arabia vs. Russia

GROUP B

	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts		W	L	GF	GA	Pts
Iran	1	0	0	1	0	3	Mexico	1	0	0	1	3
Portugal	0	1	0	1	3	0	Sweden	1	0	0	1	3
Spain	0	1	0	1	0	0	Germany	0	1	0	1	0
Morocco	0	0	1	0	1	0	South Korea	0	1	0	1	0

Friday, June 15

At Sochi, Russia

Saturday, June 16

At Moscow, Russia

Portugal vs. Spain

Wednesday, June 20

At Kazan, Russia

Iran vs. Spain

Sunday, June 25

At Kaliningrad, Russia

Spain vs. Morocco

Monday, June 18

At Kazan, Russia

Iran vs. Portugal

GROUP C

	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts		W	L	GF	GA	Pts	
France	1	0	0	2	1	3	Belgium	1	0	0	3	0	3
Denmark	1	0	0	1	1	3	England	1	0	0	3	0	3
Australia	0	1	0	1	0	1	Tunisia	0	1	1	2	0	0
Peru	0	0	1	0	1	0	Panama	0	1	0	3	0	0

Saturday, June 16

At Kazan, Russia

Denmark vs. Australia

Thursday, June 21

At Samara, Russia

Denmark vs. Peru

Wednesday, June 26

At Sochi, Russia

Australia vs. Peru

Monday, June 18

At Kazan, Russia

Denmark vs. France

GROUP D

	W	T	D	GF	GA	Pts		W	T	GF	GA	Pts	
Croatia	1	0	0	2	0	3	Japan	1	0	0	2	1	3
Argentina	1	0	0	1	1	3	Senegal	1	0	0	2	1	3
Iceland	1	0	0	1	1	3	Colombia	0	0	1	1	2	0
Nigeria	0	1	0	1	2	0	Poland	0	1	1	2	0	0

Saturday, June 16

At Moscow, Russia

Argentina vs. Croatia

Wednesday, June 21

At Kazan, Russia

Argentina vs. Nigeria

Thursday, June 26

At St. Petersburg, Russia

Nigeria vs. Argentina

Tuesday, June 26

At Petrozavodsk, Russia

Nigeria vs. Iceland

At Rostov-on-Don, Russia

Iceland vs. Croatia

GROUP E

	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts		W	T	GF	GA	Pts
Russia	1	0	0	1	5	0	At Saransk, Russia	1	0	0	1	7
Brazil	1	0	0	1	3	0	At Samara, Russia	1	0	0	1	3
Switzerland	0	1	0	1	1	0	At Costa Rica, Costa Rica	1	0	0	1	3
Costa Rica	0	1	0	1	1	0	At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia	1	0	0	1	3

Thursday, June 21

At Saransk, Russia

Russia vs. Brazil

Wednesday, June 27

At Samara, Russia

Brazil vs. Switzerland

At Kazan, Russia

Russia vs. Costa Rica

At Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

Brazil vs. Costa Rica

Monday, June 18

At Kazan, Russia

Brazil vs. Costa Rica

At Kazan, Russia

Brazil vs. Costa

SPORTS



Surprising Senegal

Africa gets first win in Russia with upset of Poland » **World Cup, Page 31**

MLB

Fast break



Astros pitcher Gerrit Cole follows through on a delivery during a game last week in Oakland, Calif. Cole, the Indians' Corey Kluber (below) and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw are among the many big league pitchers maximizing success by throwing fewer fastballs.

BEN MARGOT/AP

Despite rise in velocity, pitchers gaining power by relying less on speed

BY JAKE SEINER
Associated Press

Over five seasons as ace of the Pittsburgh Pirates, Gerrit Cole threw one of the game's hardest, heaviest fastballs, and he threw it often. The pitch helped him make millions of dollars. It put him in contention for major awards. Hitters swung through it again and again, and Cole seemed content not to mess with a good thing.

But when Cole was traded to the Houston Astros this offseason, a funny thing happened. He became more frugal with his fastball and ended up more overpowering than ever.

Cole has joined some of the game's best pitchers — including Cleveland's Corey Kluber and the Dodgers' Clayton Kershaw — in benefiting from a puzzling baseball paradox: In an era when pitchers are throwing harder than ever, they're maximiz-

ing success by using fewer fastballs.

Pitchers — even ones with blazing fastballs like Luis Severino and Chris Archer — are using more offspeed than ever recorded, and while many acres think the downturn is a trend, some believe baseball could be entering a new age dominated not by 100 mph heaters, but by a steady stream of breaking balls and changeups.

So why is the hardest-throwing generation of pitchers ever going the way of the junk-ball?

Depends who you ask, but one culprit stands out to Cole, Kluber and Kershaw: baseball's swing-changing batters.

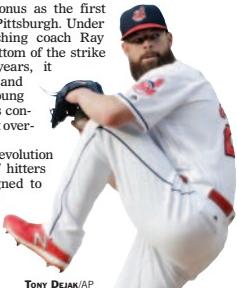
"You can call it launch angle, or you can call it the upper cuts," Cole said. "There are a lot of swings that are dictating breaking balls."

Cole's move away from a fastball-first approach is striking given the reputation of his hardest pitch. He topped out at 99 mph as an ace at UCLA, and his fastball was the headliner on a résumé that earned

him an \$8 million signing bonus as the first overall draft pick in 2011 by Pittsburgh. Under the guidance of Pirates pitching coach Ray Searage, Cole pounded the bottom of the strike zone with that heater, and for years, it worked. He was an All-Star and finished fourth in NL Cy Young Award voting in 2015, and was considered among the game's most overpowering starting pitchers.

Then baseball's flyball revolution took flight — a movement of hitters using upper-cut swings designed to crush exactly the kinds of sinking fastballs Cole was delivering. After never allowing more than 11 home runs in a season, Cole was tagged for 31 last year.

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